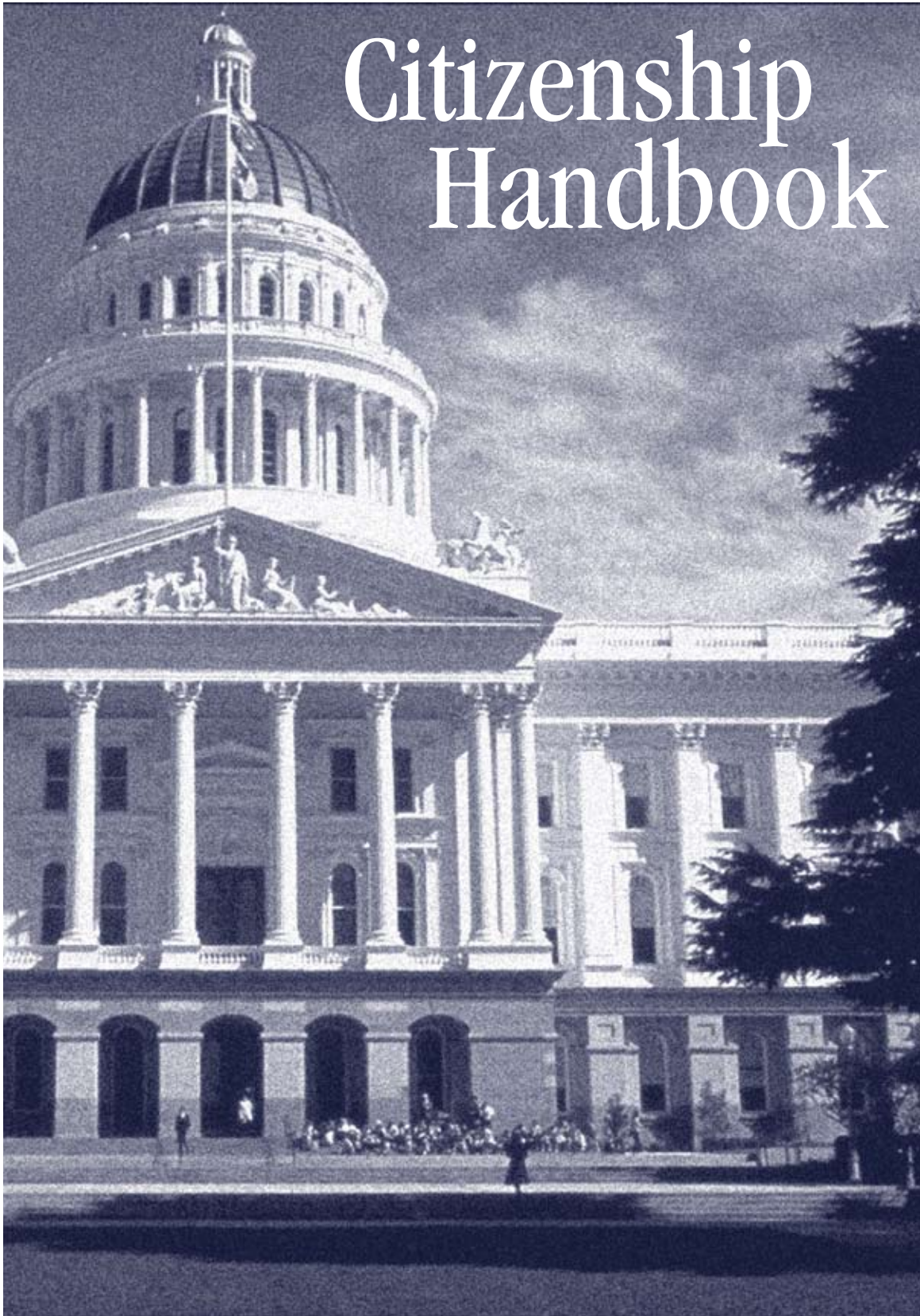


Citizenship Handbook



Compliments of
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AGING AND LONG-TERM CARE
DELTA RESOURCES

Dear Friends:

One of the true pleasures of my job as a State Senator is the opportunity to assist constituents like you through the naturalization process. The naturalization process can be complex and frustrating. That is why I have prepared the *Citizenship Handbook* to make the process a little easier. Citizenship is one of the most effective ways for immigrants to become part of the political process.

The *Citizenship Handbook* is designed to assist you through the naturalization process and helps you decide if you are eligible to apply for naturalization. It includes basic instructions on how to complete the Application for Naturalization (N-400), information on where to file and summarizes early American History, and U.S. government. Sample civic questions and sample sentences for the written English exams are also included.

Citizenship is a great privilege that you can be very proud of obtaining. However, citizenship also carries many responsibilities, such as voting and serving on juries, for which I am sure you will be well prepared. My staff and I are always available to answer any questions you may have about our government and current legislation. Please do not hesitate to call, write or visit my office whenever I may be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

SAM AANESTAD
4th Senate District

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INFOPASS – MAKING AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE USCIS

InfoPass is a free Internet-based system that allows you to make an appointment to speak with an immigration information officer. InfoPass also allows you to cancel and reschedule that appointment online. If you have a complex immigration issue that needs to be in person, visit www.uscis.gov to make an appointment.

To use InfoPass you will need a computer with an Internet connection, and Internet Explorer 4.0 or higher, Netscape 4.0 or higher, or a similar browser.

To make an appointment, go to www.uscis.gov and select “InfoPass Appointment Scheduler.” Then:

1. Select a language.
2. Select “Make an Appointment.”
3. Type in your zip code (to find the closest office).
4. Select the type of appointment that matches best with the kind of inquiry or problem you have. This step is important.
5. Type in your name, date of birth, zip code and telephone number (e-mail address is optional). This will help identify you when you arrive for your appointment.
6. Choose a date and time for your appointment. If you do not find an appointment at a time that is convenient for you, check the InfoPass appointment schedule later. New appointments are added each business day.
7. An appointment notice, showing the time, date and location of your appointment, will appear on your computer screen. Print a copy of this notice immediately. Bring this notice with you when you come for your appointment.

You will need to bring documents that clearly demonstrate the problem. Some of the documents you will need include:

- A printout of the appointment notice confirmation.
- Government-issued identification, such as a government-issued ID card, passport, valid driver’s license, I-94, Work Authorization Card or green card (Form I-551, *Alien Registration Card*).
- Any forms, receipt notices, approval or denial letters, translations and original documents that relate to your inquiry.

If you need to reschedule your appointment, InfoPass allows you to cancel or reschedule using the identification numbers at the bottom of your appointment confirmation notice.

Please cancel your appointment if you cannot make it. There is no penalty for rescheduling or canceling an appointment. If you lose your appointment notice, you can print a replacement by accessing InfoPass and entering the information requested.

For routine matters, you do not need to come in person. Routine inquiries can be handled by telephone or over the Internet.

More Information

Forms	All immigration forms are free and can be downloaded from www.uscis.gov . Call the National Customer Service Center (NCSC) at 1-800-375-5283 to request a form.
Case Status	For the status of a case filed with a USCIS Service Center, go to www.uscis.gov and select “Case Status & Processing Dates.”
Renew or Replace a Green Card	Use Form I-90, <i>Application for Replacement of Green Card</i> . Go to www.uscis.gov and select “E-filing.”
Employment Authorization	To apply or renew employment authorization, use Form I-765, <i>Application for Employment Authorization</i> . This form can be filed online. Go to www.uscis.gov and select “E-filing.”
General Information	For general information, call the NCSC at 1-800-375-5283.

(based on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Fact Sheet, January 4, 2005)

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR NATURALIZATION TO BECOME A U.S. CITIZEN

Naturalization is the way immigrants become citizens. If you are 18 years or older and wish to apply for naturalization, you should use the “Application for Naturalization” (Form N-400). The Naturalization Eligibility Worksheet (See Attachment 1) may assist you in deciding if you are eligible to apply for naturalization.

Please remember that this *Handbook* is only intended to assist you through the naturalization process. Contact the USCIS National Customer Service Center’s (NCSC) toll-free number at 1 (800) 375-5283 for further assistance. The questions and sentences in this handbook are examples only. The USCIS officer who interviews you may ask you to answer other questions or to read or write other sentences.

For your convenience, a copy of the Application for Naturalization (Form N-400) is attached at the back this handbook (see Attachment 2). You may also download application forms and information from the USCIS website at <http://www.uscis.gov/graphics/index.htm>, or call 1(800) 870-3676 to have the form mailed to you. Many local libraries, such as the downtown Sacramento Public Library, offer free, assisted Internet access.

You may apply for naturalization if:

1. you have been a lawful permanent resident for five years;
2. you have been a lawful permanent resident for three years, have been married to a U.S. citizen for those three years, and continue to be married to that U.S. citizen;
3. you are a lawful permanent resident child of U.S. citizen parents; or
4. you have qualifying military service; and
5. you have good moral character; and
6. you have resided in the USCIS District in which you are applying for citizenship for at least three months.

Children under 18 years of age may automatically become citizens when their parents are naturalized. You may inquire at your local USCIS Service office for further information. If you do not meet the qualifications listed above but believe that you are eligible for naturalization, you may inquire at your local Service office for additional information.

If you want to apply for naturalization for a child who is under 18 years old, you should use the “Application for a Certificate of Citizenship” (Form N-600).

AN OVERVIEW OF THE NATURALIZATION PROCESS

1. Preparing to Apply

- Complete the Naturalization Eligibility Worksheet (Attachment 1).
- Obtain an Application for Naturalization (Form N-400) (Attachment 2).
- Visit www.uscis.gov/graphics/index.htm and use the “InfoPass Appointment Scheduler to make an appointment with a trained USCIS information officer.

2. Completing Your Application and Getting Photographed

- Complete and submit your application to:

**USINS California Service Center
Attention N-400 Unit
P.O. Box 10400
Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-1040**

- You must send your fee with your application. To get the most current fees and forms, call (800) 375-5283.
- Submit a copy of your alien registration front and back.
- Submit two color photographs of yourself taken within 30 days of this application.
- Collect all the necessary documents.
- To check the status of your application, contact the USCIS National Customer Service Center at (800) 375-5283 or go to www.uscis.gov and click on “case status and processing dates”.

Application for Child (Form N-600):

- You must also submit copies of the child’s birth certificate.
- The parents’ marriage certificate.
- Evidence of the parents’ U.S. citizenship.
- If the parents are divorced, you must also submit the divorce decree and evidence that the citizen parent has legal custody of the child.

U.S. Military Service:

- If you have ever served in the Armed Forces of the U.S. at any time, you must submit a completed Form G-325B, “Biographic Information.”
- If your application is based on your military service you must also submit Form N-426, “Request for Certification of Military or Naval Service.”

3. Getting Fingerprinted

- Receive an appointment letter from USCIS.
- Go to the fingerprinting location.
- Get your fingerprints taken.
- Mail additional documents if USCIS requests them.
- Wait for USCIS to schedule your interview.

4. Being Interviewed

- Receive an appointment for your interview.
- Go to your local office at the specified time.
- Provide additional documents if USCIS requests them.
- Take the English and civics tests. You may be exempt from this requirement if you are over age 50 and a 15-20 years permanent resident, or are disabled. Contact USCIS for more details.
- Answer questions about your application and background. You are under Oath—it is important to always tell the truth or your application may be denied.
- Receive a decision

5. Taking the Oath

- Receive a ceremony date.
- Check in at the ceremony.
- Return your Permanent Resident Card.
- Answer questions about what you have done since your interview.
- Take the Oath.
- Receive your Certificate of Naturalization.

Congratulations! You have successfully navigated the process for becoming a United States citizen.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE APPLICATION FOR NATURALIZATION

Every application must be properly signed and filed with the correct fee. Please answer all questions by typing or clearly printing in black ink. Indicate that an item is not applicable with “N/A”. If an answer is “none”, write “none”. If you need extra space to answer any item, attach a sheet of paper with your name and your alien registration number (A#), if any, and indicate the number of the item.

If you wish to be called for your examination at the same time as another person who is also applying for naturalization, make your request on a separate cover sheet. Be sure to give the name and alien registration number of that person.

Please make every effort to appear for your scheduled appointment for fingerprinting, interview, or other processing. Failure to appear can delay processing of your case, and can result in you not receiving the benefit for which you applied. However, if an emergency arises and you absolutely cannot make your appointment, call the NCSC toll free at 1 (800) 375-5283 to request rescheduling. The NCSC will record the information, and pass it on to the local office, which will make the final decision whether to reschedule your appointment.

FINGERPRINT INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL USCIS BENEFITS APPLICANTS

For all USCIS benefits applications requiring an FD-258 fingerprint check filed with the USCIS on or after March 29, 1998:

1. Do not submit a completed fingerprint card (FD-258) with your application. Your application will be accepted without the fingerprint card attached. If you submit a completed fingerprint card with your application on or after March 29, 1998, the card will be rejected and you will be scheduled to be fingerprinted by the USCIS.
2. Do submit a fee for biometrics, in addition to the application fee, payable to the USCIS, with your application. You may submit one payment. This charge will cover the cost for you to be fingerprinted by the USCIS. For current biometric fee, visit www.uscis.gov.
3. After the USCIS receives your application, the USCIS will provide you with an appointment letter with the location of the nearest USCIS authorized fingerprint site. Please read the instructions in the appointment letter, and take it to the USCIS authorized fingerprint site when you go to your fingerprint appointment.

FEE WAIVER

Federal guidelines require the processing of immigration benefits to be self-supported by filing fees. USCIS periodically reviews its fee waiver policy to ensure that it is fair to applicants, promotes consistency and is reasonable for USCIS to administer. USCIS has discretion to waive the filing fees for an application, petition, motion or request if the applicant establishes an inability to pay the fee. The guidance provides direction on what constitutes "inability to pay."

USCIS Fee Waiver Guidance

USCIS Officers have broad discretion in granting fee waivers. The guidance outlines factors which may be considered when determining if a fee waiver is justified. Officers will evaluate all factors, circumstances and evidence before making a determination. They will consider the individual's living arrangements in the United States; the individual's extraordinary expenditures or those of his dependents residing in the United States; monetary contributions received from adult children, dependents and other people who live in the individual's household for the payment of monthly expenses; and other expenses for which the individual is responsible.

There is no one particular situation that automatically qualifies an individual for a fee waiver. Each case is unique and will be considered on its own merits. A fee waiver request may be granted when it has been established to the satisfaction of the USCIS Officer with jurisdiction over the request that the individual is unable to pay the fee.

In all fee waiver requests applicants are required to demonstrate an "inability to pay." USCIS Officers may consider the following situations and criteria in determining "inability to pay":

- Whether the individual has demonstrated that within the last 180 days, he or she qualified for or received a federal benefit such as Food Stamps, Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or other public benefit.

NOTE: Each agency's public benefits are determined based on a unique set of criteria. Even though an individual has qualified for another agency's benefits, it should only be one of the factors used in determining the fee waiver request and not be used as the definitive factor.

- Whether the individual has demonstrated a household income, on which taxes were paid for the most recent tax year, at or below the poverty level contained in the most recent poverty guidelines revised annually by the Secretary of Health and Human Services' "Poverty Guidelines".
- Whether the individual is elderly (age 65 and over).
- Whether the individual is disabled. Applicant should submit verification of disability (see **How To Apply for a Fee Waiver.**)
- The age and number of dependents in the individual's family's household who are seeking derivative status or benefits concurrently with the principal applicant.
- Humanitarian or compassionate reasons, either temporary or permanent, which justify a granting of a fee waiver request. For example: the applicant is temporarily destitute; the applicant does not own, possess or control assets sufficient to pay the fee without a showing of substantial hardship; or an applicant is on a fixed income and confined to a nursing home.
- Any other evidence or factors that establish an applicant's inability to pay the filing fees.

Applicants should be aware that certain immigration benefits have income requirements or require evidence that the applicant or beneficiary is not likely to become a public charge (for example: nonimmigrant visa petitions, family-based visa petitions, classifying an orphan as an immediate relative, employment-based visa petitions, employment authorizations, travel documents and advance parole.)

Documentation

- Documentation may be submitted to provide proof of the "inability to pay":
- Proof of living arrangements (living with relatives, living in the individual's own apartment, house, etc.) and evidence of whether any dependents reside in his or her household.
- Evidence of current employment or self-employment such as recent pay statements, W-2 forms, statement(s) from the individual's employer(s) on business stationery showing salary or wages paid, income tax returns (proof of filing of a tax return).
- Mortgage payment receipts, rent receipts, food and clothing receipts, utility bills (such as gas, electricity, telephone, water), child or elder care receipts, tuition bills, transportation expense receipts, medical expense receipts and proof of other essential expenditures.
- Any other proof of essential expenditures.
- Proof that verifies the individual's disability. The individual may provide proof of his or her disability by submitting documentation showing that the disability has been previously determined by the Social Security Administration (SSA), the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Department of Defense (DOD) or other appropriate federal agency.
- Proof of the individual's extraordinary expenditures or his or her dependents residing in the United States. Essential extraordinary expenses are those which do not occur on a monthly basis but are necessary for the well being of the individual or his or her dependents.
- Proof that the individual has, within the last 6 months, qualified for and/or received a federal benefit.
- Documentation to show all assets owned, possessed or controlled by the individual or by his or her dependents.
- Documentation establishing other financial support or subsidies - such as parental support, alimony, child support, educational scholarships and fellowships, pensions, Social Security or Veterans Benefits, etc. This includes monetary contributions for the payment of monthly expenses received from adult children, dependents and other people who are living in the individual's household, etc.
- Documentation of debts and liabilities - what is owed on any outstanding loans, credit cards, etc. by the individual and his or her dependents, and any other expenses the individual is responsible for (i.e. insurance, medical/dental bills, etc.).

How To Apply for a Fee Waiver

- To apply for a fee waiver, an applicant must submit an affidavit - or unsworn declaration that is signed and dated and includes the statement: “I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct” - requesting a fee waiver and stating the reasons why he/she is unable to pay the filing fee.
- The affidavit and any supporting documentation (see above, **Documentation**) must be submitted along with the benefit application or petition.
- To facilitate the processing of fee waiver requests, applicants should write in large print “Fee Waiver Request” on the outside of the mailing envelope containing their application or petition and fee waiver request, as well as at the top of their affidavit and each page of their supporting information.
- If a fee waiver request is denied, the entire application package will be returned to the applicant, who must begin the application process again by re-filing for the benefit with the appropriate fee.

If you believe you qualify for a fee waiver, a copy of the Application for Fee Waiver is attached at the end of this guide for your convenience (see Attachment 3). You may also call the National Customer Service Center (NCSC) at (800) 375-5283 for further assistance.

BENEFITS OF NATURALIZATION

The Right to Vote and Assume Civic Responsibilities

Citizenship brings with it the right to vote, the right to become a candidate for public office, and the right to serve on juries. These rights are fundamental to enabling an individual to participate meaningfully in the political processes that establish public policy and provide governance to our towns, cities, counties, states and nation.

Reunification of Family

Being an U.S. citizen enables an individual to request reunification with sibling(s) and married children who remain abroad. In addition, citizens are entitled to expedite immigration processing for spouses, parents and minor children, as these relatives are not subject to annual numerical quota restrictions.

Employment Opportunities

Citizenship translates into enhanced employment opportunities. While anti-discrimination legislation has eliminated most restrictions affecting employment based on race, religion, sex or nationality, citizenship may still be a qualification for some jobs. In some jurisdictions, designated public service positions are limited to applicants who are U.S. citizens. Moreover, citizenship may also be required for employment in business, research, or educational institutions that hold defense or certain other government contracts with the U.S. government.

Travel Abroad

Citizenship enhances one's ability to travel abroad. As a U.S. citizen traveling with a U.S. passport, a person may be exempt from the visa requirements of many countries and can receive protection and assistance from the U.S. government. In addition, a citizen may remain abroad for an extended period of time, while a permanent resident must always be concerned with the length of stay, as extended absences may affect one's U.S. immigration status.

Education

While lawful permanent residents may receive certain educational benefits, only citizens of the U.S. are eligible to attend the U.S. Service Academies: West Point, the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, and the Coast Guard Academy. A number of private scholarships and academic fellowships are available only to citizens.

Protection from Deportation

A person who becomes a citizen is generally not subject to deportation, while a lawful permanent resident, refugee, or asylee continues to face this possibility. For example, if a permanent resident is convicted of a crime, the Immigration and Naturalization Service has the authority to place that individual in deportation proceedings which could result in revocation of permanent residency and deportation.

EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY

For thousands of years, Indian people lived in tribes throughout North and South America.

For Europeans, the year 1492 marks the beginning of a new era of growth and exploration. Christopher Columbus, an Italian sailor who believed the earth was round, sought to explore a western route from Europe to Asia. He asked Queen Isabella of Spain to finance his trip. He sailed from Spain on August 3, 1492, in three small ships: the Santa Maria, Nina, and Pinta. On October 12, 1492, he landed on a small island in the Caribbean and later sailed to Cuba, Haiti and San Salvador. He had discovered a New World: America. However, because he thought he was in Asia, he called the inhabitants "Indians."

Later, many Europeans traveled across the Atlantic Ocean to North America and South America in search of adventure, riches, freedom of religion and better opportunity. The Portuguese (Brazil) and the Spanish colonized South America, Mexico and the area that is now the southwestern U.S. and California. The Dutch (New York), French (Quebec) and English explored and colonized the lands east of the Mississippi River to the Atlantic seacoast and north into Canada. (Later, the Russians claimed Alaska.)

The first successful English settlement was founded at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607. The discovery of tobacco in Virginia attracted many settlers to the colony, and Africans were brought as slaves to work the land. English settlers began to colonize other Atlantic coastal areas.

In 1620, a religious group called the Pilgrims left England and settled the village of Plymouth in Massachusetts. The first Thanksgiving feast was prepared by Indians and Pilgrims in 1621 to celebrate the settlers' first harvest. President Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1863. It is celebrated in November of each year.

English charters gave settlers certain protections as Englishmen, including representative government, trial by jury, and the right to own personal property. However, disputes arose between the colonists and England. After the Seven Years War between England and France, the British Parliament enacted the Stamp Act (1765) to force colonists to pay taxes to maintain its army in America. The colonists believed that it was unfair to be taxed when they had no representatives in British Parliament and their own colonial assemblies had not participated in the decision. Patrick Henry, a Virginian, proclaimed, "Give me liberty or give me death."

Many colonists refused to buy goods from England. As a result King George III and Parliament agreed to repeal the Stamp Act. But they imposed new taxes on English imports like tea, glass and paper. These taxes also sparked resistance. In 1768, British warships took over Boston Harbor, and troops were stationed to enforce the law. In 1770, British troops fired on a threatening mob, killing five colonists - the Boston Massacre. Parliament repealed all taxes but the one on tea.

In 1773, colonists boarded the ships of the British East India Company and threw the taxed tea into Boston Harbor (the Boston Tea Party). The British Parliament passed laws that closed the Boston port and limited the freedoms of the colonists. "Pay for the spoiled tea or starve," the King told the Bostonians.

In response, the colonists elected representatives who met in Philadelphia in the fall of 1774 in the First Continental Congress. The First Continental Congress sought fair treatment from England, not independence. It sent a letter to King George III, asking him to respect the rights of the colonists and to lift the Boston blockade. The Congress also approved resolutions calling on the people of Massachusetts to arm themselves and asking the other colonies for support. The British ignored the Congress. Fighting broke out between Massachusetts farmers (warned by Paul Revere) and British troops in April 1775.

At the time of American Revolution, there were thirteen English colonies in North America:

Connecticut	New Hampshire	Pennsylvania
Delaware	New Jersey	Rhode Island
Georgia	New York	South Carolina
Maryland	North Carolina	Virginia
Massachusetts		

These colonies later became the first thirteen states of the United States of America. On the American flag, each state is represented by a star (there are now 50). The thirteen stripes represent the first thirteen states.

In May 1775, the Second Continental Congress, made up of delegates from all thirteen colonies, met in Philadelphia in the Pennsylvania State House (later called Independence Hall). The Second Continental Congress decided to raise an army—the Continental Army—and appointed George Washington as Commander-in-Chief. A Virginia delegate, Thomas Jefferson, led the writing of the Declaration of Independence. On July 4, 1776, the Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence. For this reason, July 4 is a national holiday, Independence Day. The Declaration declares that Americans, like all people, have a right to “Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness”; that all men are created equal; that governments derive their powers from the consent of the governed, and that the colonies are independent of England.

King George III decided that England would fight to keep the colonies, but England also was at war with both Spain and France. France provided assistance to the Americans. The last battle of the Revolutionary War was in 1781, when the English were defeated at Yorktown by the Americans and the French. Two years later, England, France and the United States signed a peace treaty in which England recognized the United States as an independent country.

In 1777, the Continental Congress adopted the Articles of Confederation to govern the country. However, the central government was weak. In 1787, the states sent some of their most able leaders (Washington, Franklin, Madison, and Hamilton) to a Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia to discuss how to make the federal government work better.

George Washington presided over the discussions. The Convention wrote the Constitution of the United States. The Preamble (introduction) declares that:

We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect nation, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

The Constitution establishes a republican government (no monarchy), with power shared between national and state governments (federalism), and divided between three branches of government (check and balances). The three branches are:

1. A Legislative Branch, a Congress composed of two houses—Senate and House of Representatives—to enact the laws.
2. An Executive Branch, headed by the President, to administer the laws.
3. A Judicial Branch, led by the Supreme Court, to interpret the laws.

During the debate over the adoption of the Constitution, proponents agreed to add a Bill of Rights guaranteeing rights to the people. The states ratified the Constitution in 1788. In 1789, George Washington was elected as the first President of the United States. In 1791, the Bills of Rights—the first ten amendments to the Constitution—was ratified.

THE BILL OF RIGHTS

Constitutional amendments must be adopted by a 2/3 vote of both houses of Congress. The legislatures of 2/3 of the states can also call for a convention to propose amendments, but this procedure has never been used. Amendments must be ratified by the legislatures of 3/4 of the states.

First Amendment – Freedom of Religion, of Speech, and of the Press; Right to Assembly and Right of Petition (1791)

Prohibits Congress from enacting laws to restrict freedom of religion, speech, or of the press, or of the right of the people to assemble and petition the government.

Second Amendment - Right to Bear Arms (1791)

Gives the people a right to have weapons, for a well-regulated militia.

Third Amendment - Quartering of Soldiers (1791)

Provides that in time of peace, no soldiers shall be placed in a private home without the approval of the owners, nor in a time of war, unless prescribed by law.

Fourth Amendment – Searches, Seizures and Warrants (1791)

Assures that there shall be no unreasonable search or seizure of persons or property without the legal authority of a warrant, properly issued, setting forth the cause and describing the person or place to be searched and the person(s) or thing(s) to be seized.

Fifth Amendment – Criminal Proceedings and Condemnation of Property (1791)

Guarantees that no person can be brought to trial for a serious crime without first having been accused by a grand jury, except persons in military service in time of war or public danger. (Members of the Armed Forces are tried by a military court.) No person can be tried twice for the same crime or forced to testify against himself or herself, nor deprived of life, liberty, or

property, without a court trial. Private property cannot be taken for public use without a fair price.

Sixth Amendment – Rights of Accused Persons in Criminal Proceedings (1791)

Guarantees an accused person the right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury. A person accused of a crime must be told the nature and cause of the accusation, and has the right to confront witnesses, compel testimony, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

Seventh Amendment – Trial by Jury in Civil Cases (1791)

Trial by jury is guaranteed in lawsuits that involve a claim of more than \$20 (in federal cases). The rules of common law must be followed.

Eighth Amendment - Excessive Bails, Fines, Punishment (1791)

Prohibits excessive bail, excessive fines, and cruel and unusual punishment.

Ninth Amendment - Rights Reserved to the People (1791)

Although the Constitution lists certain rights, that does not mean that other rights, that are not listed, are of lesser value or are denied to the people.

Tenth Amendment – Powers Reserved to the States (1791)

Powers not delegated to the federal government, nor prohibited to the states, are reserved to the states or to the people.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS PASSED AFTER THE BILL OF RIGHTS

Eleventh Amendment (1795)

States are immune from suits by residents of another state or by a foreign state.

Twelfth Amendment (1804)

Electors must vote separately for the President and Vice President.

Thirteenth Amendment (1865)

Prohibits slavery and involuntary servitude.

Fourteenth Amendment (1868)

All persons born or naturalized in the United States are citizens. States may not make or enforce any law that abridges the privileges or immunities of citizens, nor deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law, nor deny equal protection of the law to any person.

Fifteenth Amendment (1870)

No person can be kept from voting because of race, color or previous condition of servitude.

Sixteenth Amendment (1913)

Congress has the power to collect income taxes from any source.

Seventeenth Amendment (1913)

Senators are to be directly elected by the people.

Eighteenth Amendment (1919)

Prohibited the making, selling, importation or transportation of intoxicating liquor.

Nineteenth Amendment (1920)

Women have the right to vote.

Twentieth Amendment (1933)

The President, the Vice President, and the Congress shall take office in January.

Twenty-first Amendment (1933)

Repealed the Eighteenth Amendment.

Twenty-second Amendment (1951)

No person shall be elected President more than twice.

Twenty-third Amendment (1961)

Citizens living in the District of Columbia can vote for President and Vice President.

Twenty-fourth Amendment (1964)

Citizens cannot be made to pay a tax to vote for the President, the Vice President, or Members of Congress.

Twenty-fifth Amendment (1967)

The Vice President becomes Acting President when the President is disabled.

Twenty-sixth Amendment (1971)

Citizens eighteen years of age or older have the right to vote.

Twenty-seventh Amendment (1992)

No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened.

U.S. HISTORY SINCE 1800

The third President of the United States, Thomas Jefferson, encouraged westward exploration, expansion and development. Under his leadership, the United States bought the Louisiana Purchase from France for \$15 million and financed the expedition of Lewis and Clark to the Pacific Ocean. During the term of the next President, James Madison, Congress declared war against England because it was searching and seizing U.S. ships and encouraging the Indians to resist western settlers. The War of 1812 lasted for two and a half years, during which British troops burned the White House. Francis Scott Key wrote the “Star Spangled Banner,” which later became the National Anthem, after a battle in Baltimore Harbor.

After the War of 1812, western settlements grew rapidly, leading to more conflicts with Indians who had lived in the region for centuries. Bit by bit, the government took land from the Indians. Many Indians resisted by fighting; others died from European diseases like measles. Meanwhile, great new trade routes were laid across the plains. The first was the Santa Fe Trail into Mexican territory, followed by the Oregon and California Trails. American immigrants headed south and west. In 1836, Texas declared independence from Mexico. In 1846, the United States invaded Mexico, defeating Mexican forces. The result was the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848), giving Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, California, and parts of Colorado and Wyoming to the U.S. The discovery of gold in California brought a great overland migration. California was admitted as the 34th state in 1850.

Meanwhile, the issue of slavery and its spread to new states and territories was bitterly disputed. In 1860, Abraham Lincoln was elected President on the anti-slavery platform of the newly formed Republican Party. Eleven southern states left the Union to become the Confederacy. The bloody Civil War, fought from 1861 to 1865, was won by the North under President Lincoln’s leadership. President Lincoln proclaimed the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing the slaves in 1863. He was assassinated shortly after the end of the Civil War. Slavery was prohibited by the 13th Amendment to the Constitution in 1865.

After the Civil War, the United States expanded rapidly to the west. Transcontinental railroads (completed in 1869) made travel and commerce easier. The U.S. Army fought many battles with Indian tribes from 1864 to 1898, the most famous being the defeat and massacre of General Custer and his troops at the Little Bighorn River in 1876. Eventually the Indians were forced onto reservations.

At the end of the 19th century, millions of immigrants came from many countries to work in the United States. Many landed at Ellis Island in New York. Inventors were devising new machines that made work and life more efficient and created whole new industries—in steel, oil, banking, electricity, and construction. Dangerous conditions in factories and mines eventually led to the union movement and many reform laws.

In 1898, acting on President William McKinley’s request, Congress declared war on Spain after the explosion of the U.S. battleship *Maine* in Havana, Cuba, harbor. Spain lost the war, ceding Puerto Rico, Guam and the Philippines to the United States. Cuba became independent. The United States expanded its naval capability by building the Panama Canal (1903-1914).

World War I broke out in Europe in 1914, with Germany and Austria-Hungary fighting against Russia, France and Great Britain. Under the leadership of President Woodrow Wilson, the U.S. tried to keep out of the war but joined British and French allies in 1917 after German submarines sank U.S. ships. The war ended on November 11, 1918, with the defeat of Germany.

Women were granted the right to vote in 1920 (19th Amendment). The U.S. was prosperous in the 1920s, but on October 24, 1929, the stock market crashed, creating a financial panic. The Great Depression (1929-1939) resulted in mass unemployment. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, a Democrat elected President in 1932, led the “New Deal” to create federal programs that put people back to work. Much important social legislation, such as Social Security, was enacted during the New Deal.

Adolf Hitler rose to power in Germany in 1933, with plans to create a vast German empire. In the late 1930s Germany invaded Austria and Czechoslovakia. Meanwhile, Japan invaded China. Japan launched a surprised attack against the U.S. Pacific fleet in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941. Following a famous speech by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Congress declared war against Japan the next day. Three days later Germany and its ally Italy declared war on the U.S. In 1944 Allied forces invaded occupied France (D-Day). The Germans surrendered in the spring of 1945. In August 1945, President Truman decided to drop atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Five days later Japan surrendered.

The United Nations was founded in San Francisco in 1945 to help countries find ways to avoid war and to solve conflicts by peaceful means. Very soon, however, a “Cold War” (1945-1991) began between the western democracies and the Soviet Union and its communist allies.

On June 25, 1950, troops from Communist North Korea suddenly invaded South Korea. United Nations troops, mostly Americans, under the leadership of President Harry Truman, rushed to the defense after the Security Council passed a resolution calling for member nations to give military aid to South Korea. After three years, the United States, North Korea and China signed an armistice, which ended the war but failed to bring about a permanent peace. North and South Korea have yet to sign a peace treaty. The cease-fire line became the new boundary that divided the two Koreas.

Hawaii and Alaska were admitted as the 49th and 50th states to the Union in 1959.

During the 1950s and 1960s, there were growing movements for social reform in American society. In 1954, the Supreme Court ruled racial segregation in schools to be unconstitutional as a violation of the 14th Amendment, which provides that all citizens have the right to equal protection under the law (*Brown versus Board of Education*). Martin Luther King, Jr., led a nonviolent national civil rights movement to end unjust laws and practices. His birthday is a national holiday, celebrated on the third Monday in January. In 1964, President Lyndon Johnson persuaded Congress to pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the strongest civil rights bill in U.S. history. Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated in 1968.

In 1965, President Johnson sent combat troops to South Vietnam to fight Communist North Vietnam. One result was civil unrest in the United States. U.S. participation in the war in Vietnam ended in 1973 with the withdrawal of U.S. ground forces, negotiated by President Richard Nixon. President Nixon resigned, as a result of the Watergate scandal (1974), and Gerald Ford became President without being elected.

In 1990 the United States, under the leadership of President George Herbert Walker Bush, entered into the Persian Gulf War after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. The war ended in 1991 when Iraq's military forces were expelled from Kuwait. The Cold War ended in 1991 with the end of communist control over the Soviet government and the breakup of the Soviet Union into independent republics

In 1995, the United States and Europe entered the war in Bosnia, sending peace keeping troops.

HISTORIC U.S. WARS

The Revolutionary War (1775-1785)

Combatants: Thirteen Colonies and Great Britain
Dispute: Commercial and political independence; “No taxation without representation”
Result: The United States secured its independence.

The War of 1812 (1812-1814)

Combatants: United States and Great Britain
Dispute: England was searching and seizing U.S. ships and sailors and encouraging American Indians to fight in the western border areas.
Result: The United States won commercial independence.

The Mexican War (1846-1848)

Combatants: United States and Mexico
Dispute: Dispute over the borderline between the two countries
Result: New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Texas, California and parts of Colorado and Wyoming were added to U.S. territory.

The Civil War (1861-1865)

Combatants: Northern States (the Union) vs. Southern States (the Confederacy)
Dispute: Slavery, secession, and states’ rights
Result: The Union prevailed, slavery was abolished.

The Spanish-American War (1898)

Combatants: United States and Spain
Dispute: Spain’s tyranny in Cuba and the destruction of the U.S. battleship *Maine*
Result: Spain ceded Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines to the U.S. Cuba became independent.

World War I (1914-1918)

Combatants: England, France, Russia and their allies, joined in 1917 by the United States; against Germany, Austria-Hungary and their allies
Dispute: European alliances and Germany’s ambition to expand
Result: The German and Austria-Hungarian governments were overthrown.

World War II (1941-1945)

Combatants: In 1941, the U.S. joined England, France, Russia and their allies in the war against Germany, Italy, Japan and their allies.
Dispute: Aggressive territorial expansion by Germany, Italy and Japan
Result: An Allied victory—the defeat of Germany, Japan and Italy

The United States has also fought in three major “undeclared” wars. (Presidential actions taken under his authority as Commander-in-chief without a Congressional declaration of war.)

The Cold War

From 1945-1991, the United States and its allies in western democracies were engaged in an undeclared Cold War against the Soviet Union and its communist allies. The struggle was called the “Cold War” because it did not lead to fighting, or “hot” war, on a wide scale. Mutual distrust, suspicions and misunderstandings led to limited conflicts around the world. The Vietnam War, which threaten to turn the Cold War into a general hot war, ended in 1975 when communist troops captured South Vietnam (the U.S. withdrew ground troops in 1971). Beginning in 1989, communist rule came to an end in Eastern Europe. In 1991, the Soviet Communist Party lost control of the Soviet government and the Soviet Union dissolved into independent states. In 1992, Russian President Boris Yeltsin and U.S. President Bush formally declared that their countries did not regard each other as enemies. These events marked the end of the Cold War.

The Korean Conflict (1950-1953)

Combatants: U.S., South Korea, and the United Nations against North Korea and the People’s Republic of China.
Dispute: North Korea’s invasion of South Korea.
Result: South Korea retained its independence.

The Vietnam Conflict (1965-1975)

Combatants: U.S. backed South Vietnam against Communist North Vietnam.
Dispute: Expansion of communism in Southeast Asia.
Result: U.S. withdrawal; South Vietnam and Laos ruled by communism.

The Persian Gulf War (1990-1991)

Combatants: U.S., Kuwait, Great Britain, Egypt, France, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and their allies against Iraq.
Dispute: Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait.
Result: Iraq’s military forces were expelled from Kuwait.

The “War on Terrorism” (September 11, 2001 - ongoing)

Combatants: United States against non-governmental groups in Afghanistan and elsewhere
Dispute: Attacks on aircraft, the Twin Towers Building in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

The War in Iraq (2003 - ongoing)

Combatants: Iraq, United States, Great Britain and others
Dispute: Iraq’s defiance of disarmament conditions imposed by the United Nations after the 1991 Persian Gulf War, particularly development of nuclear and biological weapons, and the “War on Terrorism”.

THE THREE BRANCHES OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

The Executive Branch administers and enforces the laws. The President is the Chief Executive and appoints the Secretaries (Cabinet Members) who lead federal departments. The Senate approves (confirms) the appointments. The President recommends new laws to Congress and may veto (not approve) bills passed by Congress.

The President and Vice President are elected indirectly by the people every four years. The 22nd Amendment limits a President to two terms. Voters actually vote for electors who meet in the Electoral College to elect the President and Vice President as instructed by the majority popular vote in their states. Each state has as many electors as it has members of Congress and the Senate (California currently has 54). The President takes office in January, following his/her election. The next presidential election will be in November 2008.

The President lives in the White House in Washington, D.C. If the President dies in office, the Vice President becomes President. George W. Bush is the President, Richard Cheney is the Vice President.

Cabinet Members and their areas of responsibility:

- Secretary of State (foreign relations)
- Secretary of the Treasury (finance)
- Secretary of Defense (military matters)
- Attorney General (head lawyer for the U.S.)
- Secretary of Interior (parks, government lands, natural resources)
- Secretary of Agriculture (farms)
- Secretary of Commerce (business)
- Secretary of Labor (working people)
- Secretary of Health and Human Services (social programs)
- Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (housing and rebuilding cities)
- Secretary of Transportation (transit, airlines, highways)
- Secretary of Energy (sources of power)
- Secretary of Education (education)

Qualifications for President:

- 35 years old
- Natural-born citizen
- Resident of the U.S. for 14 years

Powers of the President

The Constitution lists the powers of the President. Other powers derive from the President's position as a nationally elected leader who represents all the people of the United States. (In contrast, Congress represents states and districts.)

- Commander-in-Chief: Commands all armed services as a civilian leader.
- Chief Executive: Carries out the laws, including establishing administrative policies and appointing lead officials in departments and agencies.
- Chief Law Enforcer: Directs the FBI and the Attorney General, enforces court decisions, and may pardon, reprieve and /or commutes federal sentences.
- Chief Diplomat: Sets foreign policy—recognizes foreign governments, receives foreign ambassadors, and negotiates treaties with foreign governments.
- Chief of State: Is the symbolic and ceremonial head of the United States.
- Chief Legislator: Recommends laws and lobbies Congress to pass them. In January each year, the President gives a “State of the Union” speech to Congress recommending new laws and national priorities.
- Chief Politician: Leads his political party; uses his influence to elect others from his party at the federal and state level. The goal is for the President's party to be the majority party in each house of Congress.

Limits on the President's Powers

The Constitution establishes “checks and balances” to divide power, limiting the authority of the President and the Executive Branch. Some of the limits are:

- Congress must introduce and pass the budget and enact laws creating and authorizing executive branch programs.
- Congress can investigate and impeach the President.
- The Supreme Court can rule on whether or not the President's actions are legal (constitutional).
- The President can negotiate treaties, but Congress has to ratify (approve).
- The Senate confirms major presidential appointments.
- Congress can override a President's veto with a 2/3 vote.
- Only Congress has the power to officially declare war, although the President can initiate military actions.

THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Congress of the United States meets in the Capitol in Washington, D.C., to debate and enact the laws of the country. The Congress is composed of two houses:

- House of Representatives—435 members elected from population-based districts every two years.
- Senate—100 members, two for each state. Senators serve six-year terms; only 1/3 of the Senate is elected at each election.

The term of Congress begins when a new Congress meets on the first Monday in January following a November election. The President can call a special session after Congress adjourns later in the year, and Members must return from their districts to meet again.

Qualifications for Office:

Representatives:

- 25 years old
- U.S. citizen for at least 7 years
- Resident of the state

Senators:

- 30 years old
- U.S. citizen for 9 years
- Resident of the state

Why are There Two Houses of Congress?

Congress is bicameral (“bi” = two, “camera” = room or chamber). Historically, colonial assemblies and the British parliament had two houses, so the writers of the Constitution were comfortable with dividing legislative power. The House of Representatives is designed to be more responsible to popular will, through frequent elections, than the longer-term Senate.

During the constitutional debates, small and large states argued over how to elect Members of Congress. The result was a compromise: All states have equal power, regardless of size, in the Senate (two Senators x 50 states = 100 senators). California’s current Senators are Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, both Democrats. In contrast, the 435 members of the House of Representatives are elected from districts based on population. California, as the largest state, currently has 52 Representatives.

How is Congress Organized?

The head of the House of Representatives is the Speaker of the House, who also leads the majority party (Democratic or Republican, depending upon which party has the most seats). The Speaker becomes President if both the President and the Vice President leave office, die, resign or are impeached.

The Vice President presides over the Senate. This is a ceremonial role; usually a Senator presides instead. The Vice-President votes in the Senate only if there is a 50-50 tie. The real Senate leaders are majority and minority party leaders.

The business of both houses of Congress takes place mostly in committees and their subcommittees. Each member of Congress may serve on four or five different committees and even more subcommittees. House leaders assign new members to committees. Members gain seniority and higher positions (such as committee chair) the longer they serve. There are four kinds of committees:

1. Standing Committees: These are permanent committees created under the rules of each House. The Senate currently has 16 standing committees and the House has 19.

A. Key Senate committees include:

- Appropriations: Handles all money spending bills. Has the “power of the purse”.
- Finance: Deals with taxes, tariffs, and social security.
- Foreign Relations: Focuses on U.S. foreign policy.
- Armed Services: Focuses on the military.

B. Key House committees include:

- Appropriations: Handles all money spending bills.
- Rules: Decides if a bill can be debated and considered by the full House. A very powerful role.
- Ways and Means: Originates all budget bills, deals with taxes, tariffs and social security.

2. Select (Special) Committees: Examine and investigate special topics. They do not hear bills.
3. Joint Committees: Both Representatives and Senators serve as members.
4. Conference Committee: When the House and the Senate pass different versions of the same bill, these temporary committees, composed of members from both houses, arrive at the final compromise legislation.

How Does a Bill Become a Law?

A bill is a proposed law. Most of the bills that are introduced in Congress never become law, and those that are enacted can take several years. The legislative process is designed to be slow and deliberative.

1. A Bill is Written (Drafted): The President and his Cabinet generate most of the ideas for new bills. All bills must be introduced by a Member of Congress.
2. The Bill is Introduced: The proposal is printed as a bill and receives a number.
3. The Bill is Assigned to a Standing Committee.
4. The Committee Chair Assigns the Bill to a Subcommittee: The subcommittee schedules a hearing on the bill, takes testimony and may make amendments. Most bills do not receive a hearing. The decision is up to the chair and party leadership.
5. The Bill Goes to the Full Committee: The bill may be “marked up” (changed or amended) and “reported out” (sent to the “floor” of the full House or Senate). Party leaders decide when-and if-to put it on the calendar for debate.
6. The Bill is Debated on the Floor: Members debate, presenting pro and con arguments. There may be more amendments.

7. The Bill is Brought to a Vote and Sent to the Other House: If the bill is passed by one house, it is sent to the other house. Usually, different versions of the bill pass each house. They are assigned to a conference committee to work out a compromise.
8. Conference Committee: Crafts a final compromise bill.
9. Both Houses Vote on the Compromise Bill: If the bill passes, then both the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate sign it, and it goes to the President of the U.S.
10. President Acts on the Bill: If the President signs the bill, it becomes law. The President can say “no” and veto the bill, or do nothing and let the bill become law in ten days without a signature. If 2/3 of each house votes to approve a bill that the President has vetoed, it becomes law (veto override).

What is the Business of Congressional Power?

Powers delegated to Congress are listed in the Constitution, Article I, Section 8. As Congress has exercised its power over time, it has expanded the scope of its responsibilities.

- Levy and collect taxes.
- Provide for the general welfare.
- Borrow money.
- Regulate commerce.
- Establish uniform rules for bankruptcy and naturalization.
- Coin money and establish standards for weights and measures.
- Punish counterfeiting.
- Establish post office and roads.
- Create rules for copyrights and patents.
- Establish federal courts.
- Punish piracy and treason.
- Protect the nation and declare war.
- Provide for a common defense (army, navy and militia).
- Govern the District of Columbia (D.C.).
- Enact legislation to carry out and execute these powers.

The Senate has the authority to confirm the President’s appointments for Cabinet Secretaries, judges, ambassadors, and other key officials. The Senate must also approve all treaties with foreign nations.

Congress has the power of impeachment. This means that the Congress functions like a court to decide if a federal official, such as the President or a federal judge, should be removed from office. Congress also declares the punishment for treason.

THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

Courts are government institutions that settle legal disputes and administer justice. They resolve conflicts involving individuals, organizations and governments. They also decide the legal guilt or innocence of persons accused of crimes and sentence the guilty. All courts are presided over by judges. Courts differ in their authority to decide a case. In general, there are trial courts and appellate courts. Federal and state courts hear both civil (property and contracts) and criminal cases.

Federal Level	State Level	Local Level
U.S. Supreme Court	State Supreme Court	No Separate Courts
Federal Court of Appeal	State Court of Appeal	
Federal District Courts	Trial Courts (Superior Courts)	
Special Courts	Small Claims Courts	

The U.S. Supreme Court, consisting of nine justices, is the highest court of the land. Its basic duty is to determine whether federal, state and local governments are acting according to the Constitution. It is the only court specifically created by the Constitution; all others are established by Congress. Supreme Court justices are appointed for life, although they can be removed from office if impeached by Congress. The Supreme Court meets in Washington, D.C. from October to May of each year.

Most of the Supreme Court's cases are appeals on decisions by federal Courts of Appeals or state Supreme Court. However, in disputes between states or involving ambassadors, the U.S. Supreme Court is the original court to hear the case. The U.S. Supreme Court can declare laws passed by Congress or state legislatures to be unconstitutional. U.S. Supreme Court decisions set precedents that guide lower court decisions. Decisions are decided by a majority vote of the justices.

The President appoints all federal judges. The Senate votes to confirm or reject all judicial nominations. Federal judges hold their offices for life but can be removed from office if impeached by Congress. Congress enacts laws establishing federal courts.

In general, federal courts enforce federal laws while state courts enforce state laws. Both hear criminal and civil cases. If constitutional issues arise, a state law can be challenged in a federal court.

THE THREE BRANCHES OF STATE GOVERNMENT

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

The Governor is the chief executive in the state. The Governor appoints officials to assist in administering and enforcing state laws. Like the President, the Governor also suggests new legislation to the state legislature and can veto bills. California governors and elected executive officials serve four-year terms, with a limit of two terms.

In some states, the people directly elect important executive branch officials. The people of the State of California elect the following executive branch officials:

- Lieutenant Governor: Presides over the State Senate and takes the place of the Governor when the Governor is absent from the state.
- Secretary of the State: In charge of state elections and official records.
- Attorney General: Chief law enforcement officer, represents the State in the courts.
- State Controller: Disburses state funds and is responsible for all state financial records.
- State Treasurer: Manages and invests state funds.
- Insurance Commissioner: Licenses, regulates, and examines insurance companies.
- Superintendent of Public Instruction: Oversees educational policy. This is the only nonpartisan, statewide elected office.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The State Legislature is the lawmaking body of state government. All state legislatures, except Nebraska, have two houses. In California, the upper house is the Senate. California has 40 State Senators who serve four-year terms (limit of two terms). The Senate's presiding officer is the Senate Pro Tempore. The lower house is the Assembly. The 80 Members of the Assembly serve two-year terms (limit of three terms). The leader of the Assembly is the Speaker. The California Legislature meets in the Capitol in Sacramento, starting in December of each general election year.

The State legislative process is very similar to the federal process described above. Important state responsibilities include education, parks and the environment, water resources, elections, transportation, and civil and criminal law enforcement. California citizens can also propose and enact laws through the initiative process and repeal laws by referendum.

JUDICIAL BRANCH

State constitutions establish state judicial systems. States have different names for their courts, but their general functions are similar to the federal courts: a supreme court, appeals courts and trial courts.

In California, the Governor appoints state judges. The Commission on Judicial Appointments confirms or rejects the nominations. Supreme Court justices stand for election after 12-year terms, as do judges of the California Courts of Appeal. Superior Court (trial court) judges stand for election after six-year terms. Judges can be removed by legislative impeachment and recall election, and can be retired, censured or removed by the Commission on Judicial Performance.

State Courts generally hear cases that involve state laws or the State Constitution. Most cases involve crime, property, and family law.

Criminal Cases (examples)

Theft, arson, kidnapping, assault, rape, murder, drunkenness, child abuse, gambling, speeding and unsafe driving

Civil Cases (examples)

Divorce, property disputes, debts and contract disputes, personal injury, disputes about money, bankruptcy, state laws and the Constitution

Small Claims Court

These courts hear civil cases involving small amounts of money. There are no lawyers, only the plaintiff, defendant, and a judge who makes the decision.

Superior Court

Superior Courts are the state's trial courts. A judge and a jury hear most cases. Five principal types of cases are heard in Superior Court:

- Civil cases.
- Misdemeanor trials (for less serious crimes)
- Felony trials (usually with a jury).
- Probate (when people die, their wills must be proved to be genuine).
- Family law (divorce, child custody, etc.).
- Juvenile cases (crimes in which the defendant is under 18 years of age).

State Appeals Court

Appeals courts do not have juries because they do not hear new facts or testimony, but rather examine cases to see if they were decided properly.

State Supreme Court

This is the highest state court and the final interpreter of the state laws. Seven justices (a Chief Justice and six Associates) hear and decide cases by majority vote. Most cases are sent on appeal from the lower courts. The Supreme Court also reviews death penalty convictions and decides the constitutionality of state laws. Cases involving the federal Constitution can be appealed to the federal Supreme Court.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

There are 58 counties in California, and each is responsible for the health and welfare of the people within its borders. State law requires each county to have a Board of Supervisors to set priorities, approve a budget and generally oversee the functioning of the county. Each board consists of five members elected by the people of the county.

Cities are also political subdivisions and are located within counties. They are responsible for providing services such as police protection, road repair and water to the people living within their boundaries. Each city has a City Council elected by the voters in the city. Many cities have elected Mayors, and in other cities the Mayor is a member of the City Council.

Special districts are another form of local government in California. Like cities and counties, they deliver services to the people within their borders. Special districts provide services, like fire protection or public transit, that could be provided by a city or county instead. Special districts can be very large and include many cities and counties or be small and include only a part of a single city or county. Usually special districts have their own boards, elected by the people within their borders to be in charge of the district. Sometimes, a county Board of Supervisors or a City Council will be in charge of the district.

SAMPLE CIVICS QUESTIONS

Please remember that the questions and sentences in this study guide are examples only. The USCIS officer who interviews you may ask you to answer other questions or to read or write other sentences.

*Note: The answers to questions marked with asterisks will change. Check to be sure that you have the correct answers.

1. What are the colors of our flag?
Red, white and blue
2. What do the stars on the flag mean?
One for each state
3. How many stars are there on the flag?
50
4. What color are the stars on the flag?
White
5. How many stripes are there on the flag?
13
6. What do the stripes on the flag represent?
The first 13 states
7. What colors are the stripes on the flag?
Red and white
8. How many states are there in the Union (the United States)?
50
9. What do we celebrate on the 4th of July?
Independence Day
10. From whom do we celebrate independence?
England
11. What country did we fight during the Revolutionary War?
England
12. Who was the first president of the United States?
George Washington
13. Who is the President of the United States today?
George W. Bush*
14. Who is the Vice President today?
Richard Cheney*
15. Who elects the President?
The Electoral College
16. Who becomes President if the President dies?
The Vice President
17. What is the Constitution?
The supreme law of the land
18. What do we call changes to the Constitution?
Amendments
19. How many changes, or amendments, are there to the Constitution?
27*
20. What are the three branches of Government?
Executive, Judicial, and Legislative
21. What is the Legislative branch of our Government?
Congress
22. What makes up Congress?
The Senate and the House of Representatives
23. Who makes the Federal laws in the United States?
Congress

24. Who Elects Congress?
The citizens of the United States
25. How many Senators are there in Congress?
100
26. For how long do we elect each Senator?
6 years
27. Name the two U.S. Senators from your state.
Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer*
28. How many voting members are in the House of Representative?
435
29. For how long do we elect each member of the House of Representatives?
2 years
30. Who is the head of the Executive Branch of the U.S. Government?
The President
31. For how long is the President elected, for each term?
4 years
32. Name the highest part of the Judiciary Branch of our Government?
The Supreme Court
33. What are the duties of the Supreme Court?
To interpret and explain the laws
34. What is the supreme law of the United States?
The Constitution
35. What is the Bill of Rights?
The first 10 amendments to the Constitution
36. What is the capital of the state in which you live?
Sacramento
37. Who is the current governor of your state?
Arnold Schwarzenegger*
38. Who becomes President if both the President and Vice President die?
Speaker of the House
39. Who is the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court?
John Roberts*
40. What were the 13 original states?
Virginia, Massachusetts, Maryland, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Hampshire, North Carolina, South Carolina, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Georgia
41. Who said "Give me liberty or give me death?"
Patrick Henry
42. Name some countries that were our enemies during World War II?
Germany, Italy, and Japan
43. What was the 49th state added to our Union (the United States)?
Alaska
44. How many full terms can a President serve?
2
45. Who was Martin Luther King, Jr.?
An African-American civil rights leader
46. What are some of the requirements to be eligible to become President?
Candidates for President must:
- **be natural born citizens,**
 - **be at least 35 years old, and**
 - **have lived in the United States for at least 14 years.**

47. Why are there 100 senators in the United States Senate?
Each state elects two
48. Who nominates judges for the Supreme Court?
The President
49. How many Supreme Court justices are there?
9
50. Why did the Pilgrims come to America?
To gain religious freedom
51. What is the head executive of a state government called?
Governor
52. What is the head executive of a city government called?
Mayor
53. What holiday was celebrated for the first time by American colonists and Native Americans?
Thanksgiving
54. Who was the main writer of the Declaration of Independence?
Thomas Jefferson
55. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?
July 4, 1776
56. What are some of the basic beliefs of the Declaration of Independence?
That all men are created equal and have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness
57. What is the national anthem of the United States?
The Star-Spangled Banner
58. Who wrote the Star-Spangled Banner?
Francis Scott Key
59. What is the minimum voting age in the United States?
18 years old
60. Who signs bills into law?
The President
61. What is the highest court in the United States?
The Supreme Court
62. Who was President during the Civil War?
Abraham Lincoln
63. What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?
It freed the slaves
64. What special appointed group of department heads advises the President?
The Cabinet
65. Which President is called the "Father of our Country?"
George Washington
66. Which President was the first Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Army and Navy?
George Washington
67. What was the 50th state added to our Union (the United States)?
Hawaii
68. Who helped the Pilgrims in America?
The American Indians/Native Americans
69. What is the name of the first ship that brought the Pilgrims to America?
The Mayflower
70. What were the 13 original states of the United States called before they were states?
Colonies

71. What branch of government has the power to declare war?
Congress
72. Name the amendments that guarantee or address voting rights.
14th, 15th, and 19th
73. In what year was the Constitution written?
1787
74. What are the first 10 amendments to the Constitution called?
The Bill of Rights
75. Whose rights are guaranteed by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights?
All people living in the United States
76. What is the introduction to the Constitution called?
The Preamble
77. What branch of government meets in the U.S. Capitol building?
Congress
78. What is the name of the President's official home?
The White House
79. Where is the White House located?
Washington, D.C.
80. Name one right or freedom guaranteed by the first amendment.
- **of speech,**
 - **of the press**
 - **of religion.**
 - **of assembly, and**
 - **to petition the Government**
81. Who is the commander-in-Chief of the United States military?
The President
82. In what month do we vote for the President?
November
83. In what month is the new President inaugurated?
January
84. How many times may a U.S. Senator or Congressman be re-elected?
No limit
85. What are the two major political parties in the United States today?
Democratic and Republican
86. What is the executive branch of our Government?
The President, the Cabinet, and administrative agencies
87. Where does freedom of speech come from?
The Bill of Rights, 1st amendment
88. What Immigration and Naturalization Service form is used to apply for naturalized citizenship?
Form N-400 (Application for Naturalization)
89. What kind of government does the United States have?
A Republic
90. Name one purpose of the United Nations.
For countries to discuss and try to avert war and resolve world problems by peaceful means; or to provide economic aid to countries
91. Name one benefit of being a citizen of the United States.
The right to vote, serve on a jury, run for office, obtain federal jobs, to not be deported, to travel with a U.S. passport, to petition for close relatives to come to the United States to live.

92. Can the Constitution be changed?
Yes

93. What is the most important right granted to United States citizens?
The right to vote

94. What is the White House?
The President's official home

95. What is the United States Capitol?
The place where Congress meets

96. How many branches are there in the United States Government?
3

SAMPLE CIVICS QUESTIONS FOR ELDERLY APPLICANTS

Persons over the age of 65 who are Permanent Residents and who have resided in the United States as Permanent Residents for at least 20 years have different requirements for history and government knowledge. They may also be tested in the language of their choice since they are exempt from the English literacy requirements.

1. Why do we celebrate the Fourth of July?
It is Independence Day
2. Who was the first President of the United States?
George Washington
3. Who is the President of the United States now?
George W. Bush*
4. What is the Constitution?
The supreme law of the land
5. What are the first 10 amendments to the Constitution called?
The Bill of Rights
6. Who elects Congress?
The citizens of the United States
7. How many Senators are there in Congress?
100
8. For how long do we elect each Senator?
6 years
9. For how long do we elect each member of the House of Representative?
2 years
10. Who nominates judges to the Supreme Court?
The President
11. What are the three branches of our Government?
Legislative, Executive, and Judicial
12. What is the highest court in the United States?
The Supreme Court
13. What major river running North to South divides the United States?
The Mississippi River
14. The Civil War was fought over what important issues?
Slavery and states' rights
15. What are the two major political parties in the United States?
Democrat and Republican
16. How many states are there in the United States?
50
17. What is the capitol of the United States?
Washington, D.C.
18. What is the minimum voting age in the United States?
18 years old
19. Who was Martin Luther King, Jr.?
A civil rights leader
20. What nation was first to land a man on the moon?
The United States
21. What is the Capitol of your state?
Sacramento

22. What is it called if the President refuses to sign a bill into law and returns it to Congress with his objections?

Veto

23. What two oceans border the United States?

The Atlantic and Pacific Ocean

24. What famous American invented the electric light bulb?

Thomas Edison

25. What is the national anthem of the United States?

The Star-Spangled Banner

SAMPLE SENTENCES FOR THE WRITTEN ENGLISH TEST

CIVICS/HISTORY

1. A Senator is elected for 6 years.
2. _____ is the Vice President of the United States.
3. All people want to be free.
4. America is the land of freedom.
5. All United States citizens have the right to vote.
6. America is the home of the brave.
7. America is the land of the free.
8. _____ is the President of the United States.
9. Citizens have the right to vote.
10. Congress is part of the American government.
11. Congress meets in Washington, D.C.
12. Congress passes laws in the United States.
13. George Washington was the first president.
14. I want to be a citizen of the United States.
15. I want to be an American citizen.
16. I want to become an American so I can vote.
17. It is important for all citizens to vote.
18. Many people come to America for freedom.
19. Many people have died for freedom.
20. Martha Washington was the first lady.
21. Only Congress can declare war.
22. Our Government is divided into three branches.
23. People in America have the right to freedom.
24. People vote for the president in November.
25. The American flag has stars and stripes.
26. The American flag has 13 stripes.
27. The capital of the United States is Washington, D.C.
28. The colors of the flag are red, white, and blue.
29. The Constitution is the supreme law of our land.
30. The flag of the United States has 50 stars.
31. The House and Senate are parts of Congress.
32. The people have a voice in Government.
33. The people in the class took a citizenship test.
34. The President enforces the laws.
35. The President has the power of veto.
36. The President is elected every 4 years.
37. The President lives in the White House.
38. The President lives in Washington D.C.
39. The President must be an American citizen.
40. The President must be born in the United States.
41. The President signs bills into law.
42. The stars of the American flag are white.
43. The statue of liberty was a gift from France.
44. The stripes of the American flag are red and white.
45. The White House is in Washington, D.C.
46. The United States flag is red, white and blue.
47. The United States of America has 50 states.
48. There are 50 states in the Union.
49. There are three branches of Government.

EVERYDAY LIFE

1. He came to live with his brother.
2. He has a very big dog.
3. He knows how to ride a bike.
4. He wanted to find a job.
5. He wanted to talk to his boss.
6. He went to the post office.
7. His wife is at work right now.
8. His wife worked in the house.
9. I am too busy to talk today.
10. I bought a blue car today.
11. I came to _____ (city) today for my interview.
12. I count the cars as they pass by the office.
13. I drive a blue car to work.
14. I go to work everyday.
15. I have three children.
16. I know how to speak English.
17. I live in the state of _____.
18. I want to be a United States citizen.
19. It is a good job to start with.
20. My car does not work.
21. She can speak English very well.

22. She cooks for her friends.
23. She is my daughter, and he is my son.
24. She needs to buy some new clothes.
25. She wanted to live near her brother.
26. She was happy with her house.
27. The boy threw a ball.
28. The children bought a newspaper.
29. The children play at school.
30. The children wanted a television.
31. The man wanted to get a job.
32. The teacher was proud of her class.
33. The white house has a big tree.
34. They are a very happy family.
35. They are very happy with their car.
36. They buy many things at the store.
37. They came to live in the United States.
38. They got to the grocery store.
39. They have horses on their farm.
40. They live together in a big house.
41. They work well together.
42. Today I am going to the store.
43. Today is a sunny day.
44. Warm clothing was on sale in the store.
45. We are very smart to learn this.
46. We have a very clean house.
47. You cook very well.
48. You drink too much coffee.
49. You work very hard at your job.

RESOURCES

To be eligible for naturalization, you must be able to read, write and speak basic English, unless you are over age 65. If English is your second language, ESL citizenship classes are available to assist you to prepare for the citizenship exams.

English, ESL, Citizenship and Civics Classes

Community Colleges (search for your local college campus)

www.cccco.edu

California Department of Education, Adult Education Provider Directory

www.cde.ca.gov/sp/ae/ds/

California Library Literacy Services

www.literacyworks.org/cls

U.S. Department of Education, English for All

www.myefa.org

National Institute for Literacy

www.nifl.gov

America's Literacy Directory

www.literacydirectory.org

Immigration Legal Assistance Organizations

National Immigration Law Center

www.nilc.org

California Immigrant Welfare Collaborative

www.nilc.org/ciwc/

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT 1

NATURALIZATION ELIGIBILITY WORKSHEET

NATURALIZATION ELIGIBILITY WORKSHEET

The Naturalization Eligibility Worksheet can be filled out online. Here's how:

1. Go to www.uscis.gov/graphics/index.htm
2. click on *Immigration Services and Benefits Programs*
3. click on *Naturalization*
4. click on *Eligibility and Testing*
5. click on *Naturalization and Eligibility Worksheet*
6. fill out the *Worksheet*

The following pages contain a Worksheet that you can fill out by hand.

Naturalization Eligibility Worksheet

1. I am at least 18 years old.

True

☐

Not True

☐

You are not eligible to apply for naturalization.

2. I am a Permanent Resident of the United States, and I have been issued a Permanent Resident Card (formerly called Alien Registration Card).

☐☐

You are not eligible to apply for naturalization.

3. I have been a Permanent Resident for:

5 years
or more*

3 to 5
years*

less than
3 years



You are not eligible to apply for naturalization.

See Attachment A
on page 3

4. During the last 5 years, I have NOT been out of the United States for 30 months or more.

True

☐

Not True

☐

For exceptions see Attachment B on page 3.

5. Since becoming a Permanent Resident, I have not taken a trip out of the United States that lasted for 1 year or more.

☐☐

For exceptions see Attachment C on page 3.

6. I have resided in the district or state in which I am applying for citizenship for the last 3 months.

☐☐

You must wait until you have lived in the state or district for 3 months to apply.

7. I can read, write, and speak basic English.

☐☐

For exceptions see Attachment D on page 4.

8. I can pass the civics test.








☐☐

For exceptions see Attachment E on page 4.

Go to question 9.

*INS allows naturalization applicants to file their applications 3 months before they have satisfied the "continuous residence" requirement.

Naturalization Eligibility Worksheet

	True	Not True	
9. I am a person of good moral character.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>  →	You are not eligible to apply for naturalization.
10. One of the following is true: (a) I am female, OR (b) I am a male registered with the Selective Service, OR (c) I am a male who did not enter the United States under any status until after my 26th birthday, OR (d) I am a male who was born before January 1, 1960, OR (e) I am a male who was in the United States between the ages of 18 and 26 but who did not register with the Selective Service, and I will send a "Status Information Letter" from the Selective Service explaining why with my application.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>  →	You are not eligible to apply for naturalization.
11. I have never deserted from the U.S. Armed Forces.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>  →	You are not eligible to apply for naturalization.
12. I have never received an exemption or discharge from the U.S. Armed Forces on the grounds that I am an alien.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>  →	You are not eligible to apply for naturalization.
13. I am willing to perform either military OR civilian service for the United States if required by law. (Note: if your religious teachings and beliefs prohibit you from performing military service, you must be willing to perform non-military service.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>  →	You are not eligible to apply for naturalization.
14. I will support the U.S. Constitution.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>  →	You are not eligible to apply for naturalization.
15. I understand and am willing to take an oath of allegiance to the United States.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>  →	You are not eligible to apply for naturalization.

STOP HERE: You are probably eligible to apply for naturalization.
Please call the Forms Line (1-800-870-3676) for an "Application for Naturalization" (Form N-400)
and be sure to read *A Guide to Naturalization*.

Attachment A — Naturalization Eligibility Worksheet

I have been a Permanent Resident for 3 to 5 years.

I am married to and living with a U.S. citizen.

True

☐

Not True

☐

You are not eligible to apply for naturalization.

I have been married to that U.S. citizen for at least the past 3 years.

☐☐

You are not eligible to apply for naturalization.

My spouse has been a U.S. citizen for at least the past 3 years.

☐☐

You are not eligible to apply for naturalization.

During the past 3 years, I have *not* been out of the country for 18 months or more.

☐☐

You are not eligible to apply for naturalization.

If you answered "true" to all 4 questions, go to question 5 on page 1.

Attachment B

I have been out of the country for 30 months or more.

- I am:
- (a) a person who has served on board a vessel operated by or registered in the United States, **OR**
 - (b) an employee or an individual under contract to the U.S. Government, **OR**
 - (c) a person who performs ministerial or priestly functions for a religious denomination or an interdenominational organization with a valid presence in the United States.

True

☐

Not True

☐

You are not eligible to apply for naturalization.

If you answered "true," see pages 20-21 in *A Guide to Naturalization* to get more information and go to question 5 on page 1.

Attachment C

I have been out of the country for one year or more.

Since becoming a Permanent Resident, I have not taken a trip out of the United States that lasted for 1 year or more without an approved "Application to Preserve Residence for Naturalization Purposes" (Form N-470).

True

☐

Not True

☐

You are not eligible to apply for naturalization.

Note: only certain people can use the N-470. See pages 18-21 in *A Guide to Naturalization* for more information.

If you answered "true," go to question 6 on page 1.

Attachment D — Naturalization Eligibility Worksheet

I cannot read, write, or speak basic English.

I am over 50 and have lived in the United States for at least 20 years since I became a Permanent Resident, **OR**

I am over 55 and have lived in the United States for at least 15 years since I became a Permanent Resident, **OR**

I have a disability that prevents me from fulfilling this requirement and will be filing a "Medical Certification for Disability Exceptions" (Form N-648) completed and signed by a doctor with my application.

Note: only certain people can use this exemption. See pages 26 - 27 in *A Guide to Naturalization* for more information.

True

☐☐☐

Not True

☐

You are not eligible to apply for naturalization.

☐

You are not eligible to apply for naturalization.

☐

You are not eligible to apply for naturalization.

If you answered "true" to one of these questions, go to question 8 on page 1.

Attachment E

I have a disability that prevents me from fulfilling the civics requirement.

I have a disability that prevents me from fulfilling the civics requirement, and I will be filing a "Medical Certificate for Disability Exceptions" (Form N-648) completed and signed by a doctor with my application

Note: only certain people can use this exemption. See pages 26 - 27 in *A Guide to Naturalization* for more information.

True

☐

Not True

☐

You are not eligible to apply for naturalization.

If you answered "true" to the question, go to question 9 on page 2.

ATTACHMENT 2

APPLICATION FOR NATURALIZATION (N-400)

Instructions

What Is This Form?

This form, the N-400, is an application for United States citizenship (naturalization). For more information about the naturalization process and eligibility requirements, please read *A Guide to Naturalization* (M-476). If you do not already have a copy of the *Guide*, you can get a copy from:

- the INS Web Site (www.ins.usdoj.gov);
- the National Customer Service Center (NCSC) telephone line at 1-800-375-5283 (TTY: 1-800-767-1833); or
- your local INS office.

Who Should Use This Form?

To use this form you must be at least 18 years old. You must also be **ONE** of the following:

(1) A Lawful Permanent Resident for at least 5 years;

(2) A Lawful Permanent Resident for at least 3 years

AND

- you have been married to and living with the same U.S. citizen for the last 3 years,

AND

- your spouse has been a U.S. citizen for the last 3 years;

(3) A person who has served in the U.S. Armed Forces

AND

- you are a Lawful Permanent Resident with at least 3 years of U.S. Armed Forces service **and** you are either on active duty or filing within 6 months of honorable discharge

OR

- you served during a period of recognized hostilities and enlisted or re-enlisted in the United States (you do not need to be a Lawful Permanent Resident);

(4) A member of one of several other groups who are eligible to apply for naturalization (for example, persons who are nationals but not citizens of the United States). For more information about these groups, please see the *Guide*.

Who Should NOT Use This Form?

In certain cases, a person who was born outside of the United States to U.S. citizen parents is already a citizen and does not need to apply for naturalization. To find out more information about this type of citizenship and whether you should file a Form N-600, "Application for Certificate of Citizenship," read the *Guide*.

Other permanent residents under 18 years of age may be eligible for U.S. citizenship if their U.S. citizen parent or parents file a Form N-600 application in their behalf. For more information, see "Frequently Asked Questions" in the *Guide*.

When Am I Eligible To Apply?

You may apply for naturalization when you meet **all** the requirements to become a U.S. citizen. The section of the *Guide* called "Who is Eligible for Naturalization" and the Eligibility Worksheet found in the back of the *Guide* are tools to help you determine whether you are eligible to apply for naturalization. You should complete the Worksheet before filling out this N-400 application.

If you are applying based on 5 years as a Lawful Permanent Resident or based on 3 years as a Lawful Permanent Resident married to a U.S. citizen, you may apply for naturalization up to 90 days before you meet the "continuous residence" requirement. You must meet all other requirements at the time that you file your application with us.

Certain applicants have different English and civics testing requirements based on their age and length of lawful permanent residence **at the time of filing**. If you are over 50 years of age and have lived in the United States as a lawful permanent resident for periods totaling at least 20 years or if you are over 55 years of age and have lived in the United States as a lawful permanent resident for periods totaling at least 15 years, you do not have to take the English test but you do have to take the civics test in the language of your choice.

If you are over 65 years of age and have lived in the United States as a lawful permanent resident for periods totaling at least 20 years, you do not have to take the English test but you do have to take a simpler version of the civics test in the language of your choice.

What Does It Cost To Apply For Naturalization and How Do I Pay?

For information on fees and form of payment, see the *Guide* insert titled "Current Naturalization Fees." Your fee is not refundable, even if you withdraw your application or it is denied.

If you are unable to pay the naturalization application fee, you may apply in writing for a fee waiver. For information about the fee waiver process, call the NCSC telephone line at 1-800-375-5283 (TTY: 1-800-767- 1833) or see the INS Web Site (www.ins.usdoj.gov) section called "Forms and Fees."

What Do I Send With My Application?

All applicants must send certain documents with their application. For information on the documents and other information you must send with your application, see the Document Checklist in the *Guide*.

Where Do I Send My Application?

You must send your N-400 application and supporting documents to an Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Service Center. To find the Service Center address you should use, read the section in the *Guide* called "Completing Your Application and Getting Photographed."

Applicants outside the United States who are applying on the basis of their military service should follow the instructions of their designated point of contact at a U.S. military installation.

How Do I Complete This Application?

- Please print clearly or type your answers using CAPITAL letters in each box.
- Use black or blue ink.
- **Write your INS "A"- number on the top right hand corner of each page.** Use your INS "A"- number on your Permanent Resident Card (formerly known as the Alien Registration or "Green" Card). To locate your "A"- number, see the sample Permanent Resident Cards in the *Guide*. The "A" number on your card consists of 7 to 9 numbers, depending on when your record was created. If the "A"- number on your card has fewer than 9 numbers, place enough zeros before the first number to make a *total of 9 numbers* on the application. For example, write card number A1234567 as A001234567, but write card number A12345678 as A012345678.
- If a question does not apply to you, write **N/A** (meaning "Not Applicable") in the space provided.
- If you need extra space to answer any item:
 - Attach a separate sheet of paper (or more sheets if needed);
 - Write your name, your "A"- number, and "N-400" on the top right corner of the sheet; and
 - Write the number of each question for which you are providing additional information.

Step-by-Step Instructions

This form is divided into 14 parts. The information below will help you fill out the form.

Part 1. Your Name (the Person Applying for Naturalization)

A. Your current legal name - Your current legal name is the name on your birth certificate unless it has been changed after birth by a legal action such as a marriage or court order.

- B. Your name exactly as it appears on your Permanent Resident Card** (*if different from above*)-- Write your name exactly as it appears on your card, even if it is misspelled.
- C. Other names you have used** - If you have used any other names in your life, write them in this section. If you need more space, use a separate sheet of paper.

If you have NEVER used a different name, write "N/A" in the space for "Family Name (*Last Name*)."

- D. Name change (optional)** - A court can allow a change in your name when you are being naturalized. A name change does not become final until a court naturalizes you. For more information regarding a name change, see the *Guide*.

If you want a court to change your name at a naturalization oath ceremony, check "Yes" and complete this section. If you do not want to change your name, check "No" and go to Part 2.

Part 2. Information About Your Eligibility

Check the box that shows why you are eligible to apply for naturalization. If the basis for your eligibility is not described in one of the first three boxes, check "Other" and briefly write the basis for your application on the lines provided.

Part 3. Information About You

- A. Social Security Number** - Print your Social Security number. If you do not have one, write "N/A" in the space provided.
- B. Date of Birth** - Always use eight numbers to show your date of birth. Write the date in this order: Month, Day, Year. For example, write May 1, 1958 as 05/01/1958.
- C. Date You Became a Permanent Resident** - Write the official date when your lawful permanent residence began, as shown on your Permanent Resident Card. To help locate the date on your card, see the sample Permanent Resident Cards in the *Guide*. Write the date in this order: Month, Day, Year. For example, write August 9, 1988 as 08/09/1988.

- D. Country of Birth** - Write the name of the country where you were born. Write the name of the country even if it no longer exists.

- E. Country of Nationality** - Write the name of the country where you are currently a citizen or national. Write the name of the country even if it no longer exists.

- If you are stateless, write the name of the country where you were last a citizen or national.
- If you are a citizen or national of more than one country, write the name of the foreign country that issued your last passport.

- F. Citizenship of Parents** - Check "Yes" if either of your parents is a U.S. citizen. If you answer "Yes," you may already be a citizen. For more information, see "Frequently Asked Questions" in the *Guide*.

- G. Current Marital Status** - Check the marital status you have on the date you are filing this application. If you are currently not married, but had a prior marriage that was annulled (declared by a court to be invalid) check "Other" and explain it.

- H. Request for Disability Waiver** - If you have a medical disability or impairment that you believe qualifies you for a waiver of the tests of English and/or U.S. government and history, check "Yes" and attach a properly completed Form N-648. If you ask for this waiver it does not guarantee that you will be excused from the testing requirements. For more information about this waiver, see the *Guide*.

- I. Request for Disability Accommodations** - We will make every reasonable effort to help applicants with disabilities complete the naturalization process. For example, if you use a wheelchair, we will make sure that you can be fingerprinted and interviewed, and can attend a naturalization ceremony at a location that is wheelchair accessible. If you are deaf or hearing impaired and need a sign language interpreter, we will make arrangements with you to have one at your interview.

If you believe you will need us to modify or change the naturalization process for you, check the box or write in the space the kind of accommodation you need. If you need more space, use a separate sheet of paper. You do not need to send us a Form N-648 to request an accommodation. You only need to send a Form N-648 to request a waiver of the test of English and/or civics.

We consider requests for accommodations on a case-by-case basis. Asking for an accommodation will not affect your eligibility for citizenship.

Part 4. Addresses and Telephone Numbers

- A. **Home Address** - Give the address where you now live. Do NOT put post office (P.O.) box numbers here.
- B. **Mailing Address** - If your mailing address is the same as your home address, write "same." If your mailing address is different from your home address, write it in this part.
- C. **Telephone Numbers (optional)** - If you give us your telephone numbers and e-mail address, we can contact you about your application more quickly. If you are hearing impaired and use a TTY telephone connection, please indicate this by writing "(TTY)" after the telephone number.

Part 5. Information for Criminal Records Search

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) will use the information in this section, together with your fingerprints, to search for criminal records. Although the results of this search may affect your eligibility, we do NOT make naturalization decisions based on your gender, race, or physical description.

For each item, check the box or boxes that best describes you. The categories are those used by the FBI. Note, you can select one or more.

Part 6. Information About Your Residence and Employment

- A. Write every address where you have lived during the last 5 years (including in other countries).

Begin with where you live now. Include the dates you lived in those places. For example, write May 1998 to June 1999 as 05/1998 to 06/1999.

If you need separate sheets of paper to complete section A or B or any other questions on this application, be sure to follow the Instructions in **"How Do I Complete This Application?"** above.

- B. List where you have worked (or, if you were a student, the schools you have attended) during the last 5 years. Include military service. If you worked for yourself, write "self employed." Begin with your most recent job. Also, write the dates when you worked or studied in each place.

Part 7. Time Outside the United States (Including Trips to Canada and Mexico and the Caribbean)

- A. Write the total number of days you spent outside of the United States (including on military service) during the last 5 years. Count the days of every trip that lasted 24 hours or longer.
- B. Write the number of trips you have taken outside the United States during the last 5 years. Count every trip that lasted 24 hours or longer.
- C. Provide the requested information for every trip that you have taken outside the United States since you became a Lawful Permanent Resident. Begin with your most recent trip.

Part 8. Information About Your Marital History

- A. Write the number of times you have been married. Include any annulled marriages. If you were married to the same spouse more than one time, count each time as a separate marriage.
- B. If you are now married, provide information about your current spouse.
- C. Check the box to indicate whether your current spouse is a U.S. citizen.

D. If your spouse is a citizen through naturalization, give the date and place of naturalization. If your spouse regained U.S. citizenship, write the date and place the citizenship was regained.

E. If your spouse is not a U.S. citizen, complete this section.

F. If you were married before, give information about your former spouse or spouses. In question F.2, check the box showing the immigration status your former spouse had during your marriage. If the spouse was not a U.S. citizen or a Lawful Permanent Resident at that time check "Other" and explain. For question F.5, if your marriage was annulled, check "Other" and explain. If you were married to the same spouse more than one time, write about each marriage separately.

G. For any prior marriages of your current spouse, follow the instructions in section F above.

Note: If you or your present spouse had more than one prior marriage, provide the same information required by section F and section G about every additional marriage on a separate sheet of paper.

Part 9. Information About Your Children

A. Write the total number of sons and daughters you have had. Count **all** of your children, regardless of whether they are:

- alive, missing, or dead;
- born in other countries or in the United States;
- under 18 years old or adults;
- married or unmarried;
- living with you or elsewhere;
- stepsons or stepdaughters or legally adopted; or
- born when you were not married.

B. Write information about all your sons and daughters. In the last column ("Location"), write:

- "with me" - if the son or daughter is currently living with you;
- the street address and state or country where the son or daughter lives - if the son or daughter is NOT currently living with you; or

- "missing" or "dead" - if that son or daughter is missing or dead.

If you need space to list information about additional sons and daughters, attach a separate sheet of paper.

Part 10. Additional Questions

Answer each question by checking "Yes" or "No." If ANY part of a question applies to you, you must answer "Yes." For example, if you were never arrested but *were* once detained by a police officer, check "Yes" to the question "Have you ever been arrested or detained by a law enforcement officer?" and attach a written explanation.

We will use this information to determine your eligibility for citizenship. Answer every question honestly and accurately. If you do not, we may deny your application for lack of good moral character.

Answering "Yes" to one of these questions does not always cause an application to be denied. For more information on eligibility, please see the *Guide*.

Part 11. Your Signature

After reading the statement in Part 11, you must sign and date it. You should sign your full name without abbreviating it or using initials. The signature must be legible. Your application may be returned to you if it is not signed.

If you cannot sign your name in English, sign in your native language. If you are unable to write in any language, sign your name with an "X."

NOTE: A designated representative may sign this section on behalf an applicant who qualifies for a waiver of the Oath of Allegiance because of a development or physical impairment (see *Guide* for more information). In such a case the designated representative should write the name of the applicant and then sign his or her own name followed by the words "Designated Representative." The information attested to by the Designated Representative is subject to the same penalties discussed on page 6 of these Instructions.

Part 12. Signature of Person Who Prepared This Application for You

If someone filled out this form for you, he or she must complete this section.

Part 13. Signature at Interview

Do NOT complete this part. You will be asked to complete this part at your interview.

Part 14. Oath of Allegiance

Do NOT complete this part. You will be asked to complete this part at your interview.

If we approve your application, you must take this Oath of Allegiance to become a citizen. In limited cases you can take a modified Oath. The Oath requirement cannot be waived unless you are unable to understand its meaning because of a physical or developmental disability or mental impairment. For more information, see the *Guide*. Your signature on this form only indicates that you have no objections to taking the Oath of Allegiance. **It does not mean that you have taken the Oath or that you are naturalized.** If the INS approves your application for naturalization, you must attend an oath ceremony and take the Oath of Allegiance to the United States.

Penalties

If you knowingly and willfully falsify or conceal a material fact or submit a false document with this request, we will deny your application for naturalization and may deny any other immigration benefit. In addition, you will face severe penalties provided by law and may be subject to a removal proceeding or criminal prosecution.

If we grant you citizenship after you falsify or conceal a material fact or submit a false document with this request, your naturalization may be revoked.

Privacy Act Notice

We ask for the information on this form and for other documents to determine your eligibility for naturalization. Form N-400 processes are generally covered in 8 U.S.C. 1421 through 1430 and 1436 through 1449. We may provide information from your application to other government agencies.

Paperwork Reduction Act Notice

A person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. We try to create forms and instructions that are accurate, can be easily understood and which impose the least possible burden on you to provide us with the information. Often this is difficult because some immigration laws are very complex. The estimated average time to complete and file this form is computed as follows: (1) 2 hours and 8 minutes to learn about and complete the form; (2) 4 hours to assemble and file the information - for a total estimated average of 6 hours and 8 minutes per application. If you have comments about the accuracy of this estimate or suggestions to make this form simpler, you can write to the Immigration and Naturalization Service, HQRFS, 425 I Street, N.W., Room 4034, Washington, DC 20536; OMB No. 1115-0009. **DO NOT MAIL YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION TO THIS ADDRESS.**

Application for Naturalization

Print clearly or type your answers using CAPITAL letters. Failure to print clearly may delay your application. Use black or blue ink.

Part 1. Your Name (*The Person Applying for Naturalization*)

Write your INS "A"- number here:

A _____

A. Your current legal name.

Family Name (*Last Name*)

Given Name (*First Name*)

Full Middle Name (*If applicable*)

B. Your name **exactly** as it appears on your Permanent Resident Card.

Family Name (*Last Name*)

Given Name (*First Name*)

Full Middle Name (*If applicable*)

C. If you have ever used other names, provide them below.

Family Name (*Last Name*)

Given Name (*First Name*)

Middle Name

D. Name change (*optional*)

Please read the Instructions before you decide whether to change your name.

1. Would you like to legally change your name? ☐ Yes ☐ No

2. If "Yes," print the new name you would like to use. Do not use initials or abbreviations when writing your new name.

Family Name (*Last Name*)

Given Name (*First Name*)

Full Middle Name

FOR INS USE ONLY

Bar Code

Date Stamp

Remarks

Action

Part 2. Information About Your Eligibility (*Check Only One*)

I am at least 18 years old **AND**

- A. ☐ I have been a Lawful Permanent Resident of the United States for at least 5 years.
- B. ☐ I have been a Lawful Permanent Resident of the United States for at least 3 years, **AND**
I have been married to and living with the same U.S. citizen for the last 3 years, **AND**
my spouse has been a U.S. citizen for the last 3 years.
- C. ☐ I am applying on the basis of qualifying military service.
- D. ☐ Other (*Please explain*) _____

Part 3. Information About You

Write your INS "A"- number here:

A _____

A. Social Security Number

_____-_____-_____

B. Date of Birth (*Month/Day/Year*)

____/____/____

C. Date You Became a Permanent Resident (*Month/Day/Year*)

____/____/____

D. Country of Birth

E. Country of Nationality

F. Are either of your parents U.S. citizens? (*if yes, see Instructions*)☐ Yes☐ No

G. What is your current marital status?

☐ Single, Never Married☐ Married☐ Divorced☐ Widowed☐ Marriage Annulled or Other (*Explain*) _____

H. Are you requesting a waiver of the English and/or U.S. History and Government requirements based on a disability or impairment and attaching a Form N-648 with your application?

☐ Yes☐ NoI. Are you requesting an accommodation to the naturalization process because of a disability or impairment? (*See Instructions for some examples of accommodations.*)☐ Yes☐ No

If you answered "Yes", check the box below that applies:

☐ I am deaf or hearing impaired and need a sign language interpreter who uses the following language: _____☐ I use a wheelchair.☐ I am blind or sight impaired.☐ I will need another type of accommodation. Please explain: _____**Part 4. Addresses and Telephone Numbers**A. Home Address - Street Number and Name (*Do NOT write a P.O. Box in this space*)

Apartment Number

City

County

State

ZIP Code

Country

B. Care of

Mailing Address - Street Number and Name (*If different from home address*)

Apartment Number

City

State

ZIP Code

Country

C. Daytime Phone Number (*If any*)

() _____

Evening Phone Number (*If any*)

() _____

E-mail Address (*If any*)

Part 5. Information for Criminal Records Search

Write your INS "A"- number here:

A _____

Note: The categories below are those required by the FBI. See Instructions for more information.

A. Gender

☐ Male ☐ Female

B. Height

Feet Inches

C. Weight

Pounds

D. Are you Hispanic or Latino?

☐ Yes ☐ NoE. Race (*Select one or more.*)☐ White ☐ Asian ☐ Black or African American ☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

F. Hair color

☐ Black ☐ Brown ☐ Blonde ☐ Gray ☐ White ☐ Red ☐ Sandy ☐ Bald (No Hair)

G. Eye color

☐ Brown ☐ Blue ☐ Green ☐ Hazel ☐ Gray ☐ Black ☐ Pink ☐ Maroon ☐ Other**Part 6. Information About Your Residence and Employment**

A. Where have you lived during the last 5 years? Begin with where you live now and then list every place you lived for the last 5 years. If you need more space, use a separate sheet of paper.

Street Number and Name, Apartment Number, City, State, Zip Code and Country	Dates (<i>Month/Year</i>)	
	From	To
Current Home Address - Same as Part 4.A	___ / ___	Present
	___ / ___	___ / ___
	___ / ___	___ / ___
	___ / ___	___ / ___
	___ / ___	___ / ___

B. Where have you worked (or, if you were a student, what schools did you attend) during the last 5 years? Include military service. Begin with your current or latest employer and then list every place you have worked or studied for the last 5 years. If you need more space, use a separate sheet of paper.

Employer or School Name	Employer or School Address (<i>Street, City and State</i>)	Dates (<i>Month/Year</i>)		Your Occupation
		From	To	
		___ / ___	___ / ___	
		___ / ___	___ / ___	
		___ / ___	___ / ___	
		___ / ___	___ / ___	
		___ / ___	___ / ___	

Part 7. Time Outside the United States
(Including Trips to Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean Islands)

Write your INS "A"- number here:

A _____

A. How many total days did you spend outside of the United States during the past 5 years?

days

B. How many trips of 24 hours or more have you taken outside of the United States during the past 5 years?

trips

C. List below all the trips of 24 hours or more that you have taken outside of the United States since becoming a Lawful Permanent Resident. Begin with your most recent trip. If you need more space, use a separate sheet of paper.

Date You Left the United States (Month/Day/Year)	Date You Returned to the United States (Month/Day/Year)	Did Trip Last 6 Months or More?		Countries to Which You Traveled	Total Days Out of the United States
___/___/___	___/___/___	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No		
___/___/___	___/___/___	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No		
___/___/___	___/___/___	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No		
___/___/___	___/___/___	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No		
___/___/___	___/___/___	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No		
___/___/___	___/___/___	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No		
___/___/___	___/___/___	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No		
___/___/___	___/___/___	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No		
___/___/___	___/___/___	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No		
___/___/___	___/___/___	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No		

Part 8. Information About Your Marital History

A. How many times have you been married (including annulled marriages)?

If you have NEVER been married, go to Part 9.

B. If you are now married, give the following information about your spouse:

1. Spouse's Family Name (Last Name)

Given Name (First Name)

Full Middle Name (If applicable)

2. Date of Birth (Month/Day/Year)

___/___/___

3. Date of Marriage (Month/Day/Year)

___/___/___

4. Spouse's Social Security Number

___-___-___

5. Home Address - Street Number and Name

Apartment Number

City

State

ZIP Code

Part 8. Information About Your Marital History (Continued)

Write your INS "A"- number here:

A _____

C. Is your spouse a U.S. citizen? ☐ Yes ☐ No

D. If your spouse is a U.S. citizen, give the following information:

1. When did your spouse become a U.S. citizen?

☐ At Birth☐ Other

If "Other," give the following information:

2. Date your spouse became a U.S. citizen

____/____/____

3. Place your spouse became a U.S. citizen (*Please see Instructions*)

City and State

E. If your spouse is NOT a U.S. citizen, give the following information :

1. Spouse's Country of Citizenship

2. Spouse's INS "A"- Number (*If applicable*)

A _____

3. Spouse's Immigration Status

☐

Lawful Permanent Resident

☐

Other _____

F. If you were married before, provide the following information about your prior spouse. If you have more than one previous marriage, use a separate sheet of paper to provide the information requested in questions 1-5 below.

1. Prior Spouse's Family Name (*Last Name*)

Given Name (*First Name*)

Full Middle Name (*If applicable*)

2. Prior Spouse's Immigration Status

☐

U.S. Citizen

☐

Lawful Permanent Resident

☐

Other _____

3. Date of Marriage (*Month/Day/Year*)

____/____/____

4. Date Marriage Ended (*Month/Day/Year*)

____/____/____

5. How Marriage Ended

☐

Divorce

☐

Spouse Died

☐

Other _____

G. How many times has your current spouse been married (including annulled marriages)?

If your spouse has EVER been married before, give the following information about **your spouse's** prior marriage.

If your spouse has more than one previous marriage, use a separate sheet of paper to provide the information requested in questions 1 - 5 below.

1. Prior Spouse's Family Name (*Last Name*)

Given Name (*First Name*)

Full Middle Name (*If applicable*)

2. Prior Spouse's Immigration Status

☐

U.S. Citizen

☐

Lawful Permanent Resident

☐

Other _____

3. Date of Marriage (*Month/Day/Year*)

____/____/____

4. Date Marriage Ended (*Month/Day/Year*)

____/____/____

5. How Marriage Ended

☐

Divorce

☐

Spouse Died

☐

Other _____

Part 9. Information About Your Children

Write your INS "A"- number here:

A _ _ _ _ _

A. How many sons and daughters have you had? For more information on which sons and daughters you should include and how to complete this section, see the Instructions.

B. Provide the following information about all of your sons and daughters. If you need more space, use a separate sheet of paper.

Full Name of Son or Daughter	Date of Birth (Month/Day/Year)	INS "A"- number (if child has one)	Country of Birth	Current Address (Street, City, State & Country)
	_ _ / _ _ / _ _ _ _	A _ _ _ _ _		
	_ _ / _ _ / _ _ _ _	A _ _ _ _ _		
	_ _ / _ _ / _ _ _ _	A _ _ _ _ _		
	_ _ / _ _ / _ _ _ _	A _ _ _ _ _		
	_ _ / _ _ / _ _ _ _	A _ _ _ _ _		
	_ _ / _ _ / _ _ _ _	A _ _ _ _ _		
	_ _ / _ _ / _ _ _ _	A _ _ _ _ _		
	_ _ / _ _ / _ _ _ _	A _ _ _ _ _		

Part 10. Additional Questions

Please answer questions 1 through 14. If you answer "Yes" to any of these questions, include a written explanation with this form. Your written explanation should (1) explain why your answer was "Yes," and (2) provide any additional information that helps to explain your answer.

A. General Questions

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Have you EVER claimed to be a U.S. citizen (<i>in writing or any other way</i>)? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 2. Have you EVER registered to vote in any Federal, state, or local election in the United States? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 3. Have you EVER voted in any Federal, state, or local election in the United States? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 4. Since becoming a Lawful Permanent Resident, have you EVER failed to file a required Federal, state, or local tax return? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 5. Do you owe any Federal, state, or local taxes that are overdue? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 6. Do you have any title of nobility in any foreign country? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 7. Have you ever been declared legally incompetent or been confined to a mental institution within the last 5 years? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

Part 10. Additional Questions (Continued)

Write your INS "A"- number here:

A _____

B. Affiliations

8. a. Have you **EVER** been a member of or associated with any organization, association, fund, foundation, party, club, society, or similar group in the United States or in any other place? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- b. If you answered "Yes," list the name of each group below. If you need more space, attach the names of the other group(s) on a separate sheet of paper.

Name of Group	Name of Group
1.	6.
2.	7.
3.	8.
4.	9.
5.	10.

9. Have you **EVER** been a member of or in any way associated (*either directly or indirectly*) with:
- a. The Communist Party? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- b. Any other totalitarian party? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- c. A terrorist organization? ☐ Yes ☐ No
10. Have you **EVER** advocated (*either directly or indirectly*) the overthrow of any government by force or violence? ☐ Yes ☐ No
11. Have you **EVER** persecuted (*either directly or indirectly*) any person because of race, religion, national origin, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion? ☐ Yes ☐ No
12. Between March 23, 1933, and May 8, 1945, did you work for or associate in any way (*either directly or indirectly*) with:
- a. The Nazi government of Germany? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- b. Any government in any area (1) occupied by, (2) allied with, or (3) established with the help of the Nazi government of Germany? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- c. Any German, Nazi, or S.S. military unit, paramilitary unit, self-defense unit, vigilante unit, citizen unit, police unit, government agency or office, extermination camp, concentration camp, prisoner of war camp, prison, labor camp, or transit camp? ☐ Yes ☐ No

C. Continuous Residence

Since becoming a Lawful Permanent Resident of the United States:

13. Have you **EVER** called yourself a "nonresident" on a Federal, state, or local tax return? ☐ Yes ☐ No
14. Have you **EVER** failed to file a Federal, state, or local tax return because you considered yourself to be a "nonresident"? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Part 10. Additional Questions (Continued)

Write your INS "A"- number here:

A _____

D. Good Moral Character

For the purposes of this application, you must answer "Yes" to the following questions, if applicable, even if your records were sealed or otherwise cleared or if anyone, including a judge, law enforcement officer, or attorney, told you that you no longer have a record.

15. Have you **EVER** committed a crime or offense for which you were NOT arrested? ☐ Yes ☐ No
16. Have you **EVER** been arrested, cited, or detained by any law enforcement officer (including INS and military officers) for any reason? ☐ Yes ☐ No
17. Have you **EVER** been charged with committing any crime or offense? ☐ Yes ☐ No
18. Have you **EVER** been convicted of a crime or offense? ☐ Yes ☐ No
19. Have you **EVER** been placed in an alternative sentencing or a rehabilitative program (for example: diversion, deferred prosecution, withheld adjudication, deferred adjudication)? ☐ Yes ☐ No
20. Have you **EVER** received a suspended sentence, been placed on probation, or been paroled? ☐ Yes ☐ No
21. Have you **EVER** been in jail or prison? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If you answered "Yes" to any of questions 15 through 21, complete the following table. If you need more space, use a separate sheet of paper to give the same information.

Why were you arrested, cited, detained, or charged?	Date arrested, cited, detained, or charged (Month/Day/Year)	Where were you arrested, cited, detained or charged? (City, State, Country)	Outcome or disposition of the arrest, citation, detention or charge (No charges filed, charges dismissed, jail, probation, etc.)

Answer questions 22 through 33. If you answer "Yes" to any of these questions, attach (1) your written explanation why your answer was "Yes," and (2) any additional information or documentation that helps explain your answer.

22. Have you **EVER**:
- a. been a habitual drunkard? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 - b. been a prostitute, or procured anyone for prostitution? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 - c. sold or smuggled controlled substances, illegal drugs or narcotics? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 - d. been married to more than one person at the same time? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 - e. helped anyone enter or try to enter the United States illegally? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 - f. gambled illegally or received income from illegal gambling? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 - g. failed to support your dependents or to pay alimony? ☐ Yes ☐ No
23. Have you **EVER** given false or misleading information to any U.S. government official while applying for any immigration benefit or to prevent deportation, exclusion, or removal? ☐ Yes ☐ No
24. Have you **EVER** lied to any U.S. government official to gain entry or admission into the United States? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Part 10. Additional Questions (Continued)

Write your INS "A"- number here:

A _ _ _ _ _

E. Removal, Exclusion, and Deportation Proceedings

25. Are removal, exclusion, rescission or deportation proceedings pending against you? ☐ Yes ☐ No
26. Have you **EVER** been removed, excluded, or deported from the United States? ☐ Yes ☐ No
27. Have you **EVER** been ordered to be removed, excluded, or deported from the United States? ☐ Yes ☐ No
28. Have you **EVER** applied for any kind of relief from removal, exclusion, or deportation? ☐ Yes ☐ No

F. Military Service

29. Have you **EVER** served in the U.S. Armed Forces? ☐ Yes ☐ No
30. Have you **EVER** left the United States to avoid being drafted into the U.S. Armed Forces? ☐ Yes ☐ No
31. Have you **EVER** applied for any kind of exemption from military service in the U.S. Armed Forces? ☐ Yes ☐ No
32. Have you **EVER** deserted from the U.S. Armed Forces? ☐ Yes ☐ No

G. Selective Service Registration

33. Are you a male who lived in the United States at any time between your 18th and 26th birthdays in any status except as a lawful nonimmigrant? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If you answered "NO", go on to question 34.

If you answered "YES", provide the information below.

If you answered "YES", but you did NOT register with the Selective Service System and are still under 26 years of age, you must register before you apply for naturalization, so that you can complete the information below:

Date Registered (Month/Day/Year)

Selective Service Number

If you answered "YES", but you did NOT register with the Selective Service and you are now 26 years old or older, attach a statement explaining why you did not register.

H. Oath Requirements (See Part 14 for the text of the oath)

Answer questions 34 through 39. If you answer "No" to any of these questions, attach (1) your written explanation why the answer was "No" and (2) any additional information or documentation that helps to explain your answer.

34. Do you support the Constitution and form of government of the United States? ☐ Yes ☐ No
35. Do you understand the full Oath of Allegiance to the United States? ☐ Yes ☐ No
36. Are you willing to take the full Oath of Allegiance to the United States? ☐ Yes ☐ No
37. If the law requires it, are you willing to bear arms on behalf of the United States? ☐ Yes ☐ No
38. If the law requires it, are you willing to perform noncombatant services in the U.S. Armed Forces? ☐ Yes ☐ No
39. If the law requires it, are you willing to perform work of national importance under civilian direction? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Part 11. Your Signature

Write your INS "A"- number here:

A _____

I certify, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America, that this application, and the evidence submitted with it, are all true and correct. I authorize the release of any information which INS needs to determine my eligibility for naturalization.

Your Signature

Date (Month/Day/Year)

__/__/__

Part 12. Signature of Person Who Prepared This Application for You (if applicable)

I declare under penalty of perjury that I prepared this application at the request of the above person. The answers provided are based on information of which I have personal knowledge and/or were provided to me by the above named person in response to the *exact* questions contained on this form.

Preparer's Printed Name

Preparer's Signature

Date (Month/Day/Year)

Preparer's Firm or Organization Name (If applicable)

Preparer's Daytime Phone Number

__/__/__

()

Preparer's Address - Street Number and Name

City

State

ZIP Code

Do Not Complete Parts 13 and 14 Until an INS Officer Instructs You To Do So**Part 13. Signature at Interview**

I swear (affirm) and certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that I know that the contents of this application for naturalization subscribed by me, including corrections numbered 1 through _____ and the evidence submitted by me numbered pages 1 through _____, are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Subscribed to and sworn to (affirmed) before me

Officer's Printed Name or Stamp

Date (Month/Day/Year)

Complete Signature of Applicant

Officer's Signature

Part 14. Oath of Allegiance

If your application is approved, you will be scheduled for a public oath ceremony at which time you will be required to take the following oath of allegiance immediately prior to becoming a naturalized citizen. By signing, you acknowledge your willingness and ability to take this oath:

I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen;

that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic;

that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same;

that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law;

that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by the law;

that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law; and

that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God.

Printed Name of Applicant

Complete Signature of Applicant

ATTACHMENT 3

COLOR PHOTOGRAPH SPECIFICATIONS



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

USCIS Is Making Photos Simpler



**Old Three-Quarter
Style Photo**



**New Passport
Style Photo**

Photos Must Be in Color

Washington, DC — In accordance with language specified in the Border Security Act of 2003, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) today announced a change in the photo requirements for all applicants from a three-quarter face position to a standard, full frontal face position to take effect **August 2, 2004**.

USCIS will accept both three-quarter and full color frontal photographs until **September 1, 2004** after which only full frontal color will be accepted.

The application process of customers who have already submitted materials that include color photos with the three-quarter standard **will not** be affected by this change.

All photos must be of just the person. Where more than one photo is required, all photos of the person must be identical. All photos must meet the specifications for full frontal/passport photos and must not be more than 30 days old when an application is filed.

For more information on photo standards visit the Department for State website at <http://travel.state.gov/pptphotos/index.html> or contact the USCIS National Customer Service Center at 1 800 375 5283.

[List of forms that require photos is on the back](#)

Applications and Petitions That Require Photos, and the Number Required

2 photos are required for the following forms:

I-90 – Renew or replace your Permanent Resident Card (green card)

I-131 – Re-entry permit, refugee travel document, or advance parole

I-485 – Adjust status and become a permanent resident while in the U.S.

I-765 – Employment Authorization/Employment Authorization Document (EAD)

I-777 – Replace Northern Mariana Card

I-821 – Temporary Protected Status (TPS) Program

N-300 – Declaration of Intent (to apply for U.S. citizenship)

N-400 – Naturalization (to become a U.S. citizen)

N-565 – Replace Naturalization/Citizenship Certificate

3 photos are required for the following forms:

I-698 – Temporary Resident's application under the 1987 Legalization Program for permanent resident status — file 1 photo for your application, and bring the other 2 with you to your interview

N-600K – To apply for U.S. citizenship for foreign-born child residing abroad with U.S. citizen parent

4 photos are required for the following forms:

I-817 – To apply for Family Unity Benefits

I-881 – NACARA — suspension of deportation or special rule cancellation

File the following with your photos and of others as shown below:

I-129F – Fiancé(e) Petition — file with 1 photo of you + 1 photo of fiancé(e)

I-130 – Relative petition — if filing for your husband or wife, file with 1 photo of you + 1 photo of your husband or wife

I-589 – Asylum — file with 1 photo of you + 1 photo of each family member listed in Part A. II that you are including in your application

I-730 – Relative petition filed by a person granted Asylum or Refugee status — file with 1 photo of the family member for whom you are filing the I-730

I-914 – "T" nonimmigrant status — file with 3 photos of you + 3 photos of each immediate family member for which you file an I-914A supplement

All photos must be of just the person. Where more than one photo is required, all photos of the person must be identical. All photos must meet the specifications for full frontal/passport photos and must be no more than 30 days old when you file your application.

For more information, visit our website at www.uscis.gov, or call our customer service at 1 800 375 5283.

ATTACHMENT 4

APPLICATION FOR FEE WAIVER

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION SERVICES

APPLICATION FOR FEE WAIVER

I, _____ A# _____ AM

REQUESTING A FEE WAIVER FOR THE ATTACHED APPLICATION, PETITION, OR
MOTION AS PROVIDED BY TITLE 8CFR 103.7. I DO NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO
PAY THE FEE, EVEN THOUGH I BELIEVE I AM ENTITLED TO THE BENEFIT.

I CANNOT PAY THE FEE BECAUSE: _____

I DECLARE UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT MY MONTHLY INCOME IS:

\$_____, AND I HAVE _____ DEPENDENTS.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

REQUESTER

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

ACTION BY USCIS ONLY
(VERIFY ALIEN'S STATUS & INDICATE BELOW)

REQUEST: _____ SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

APPROVE:

DISAPPROVE:

IN ACCORDANCE WITH 8 CFR 103.7



SENATOR SAM AANESTAD

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